BIG COMICS SPECIAL

宗像教授異考録

第五集

星野之宣

Yukinobu Hoshino Presents

星野之宣

小学館
BCS1020

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ブックデザイン＊木谷正和［エクスプリム］

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なぜ女は大蛇となり愛する男を殺したのか…
なぜ阻石クレーターは人を寄せつけるのか…
なぜアゲハチョウの幼虫は"常世の虫"なのか…
世界各地で語り継がれてきた伝説や神話、
古来から受け継がれてきた風習等には、
何らかの歴史的事実が秘められている。
東亜文化大学教授・宗像伝奇が閉ざされし歴史の真実の扉を開く。

小学館
BCS1020

Munakata Kyojiyu Ikouroku

棟方志功遺構集

BIG COMICS SPECIAL

THE CASE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MUNAKATA

宗像教授異考録

Munakata Kyouju Ikoukiroku

Collection 5

第五集

星野之宣

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CHAPTER 14: DOJO TEMPLE

Long, long ago, in the province of Kii (Wakayama Prefecture), a travelling priest named Anchin sought lodging for the night in the mountain village of Muro.

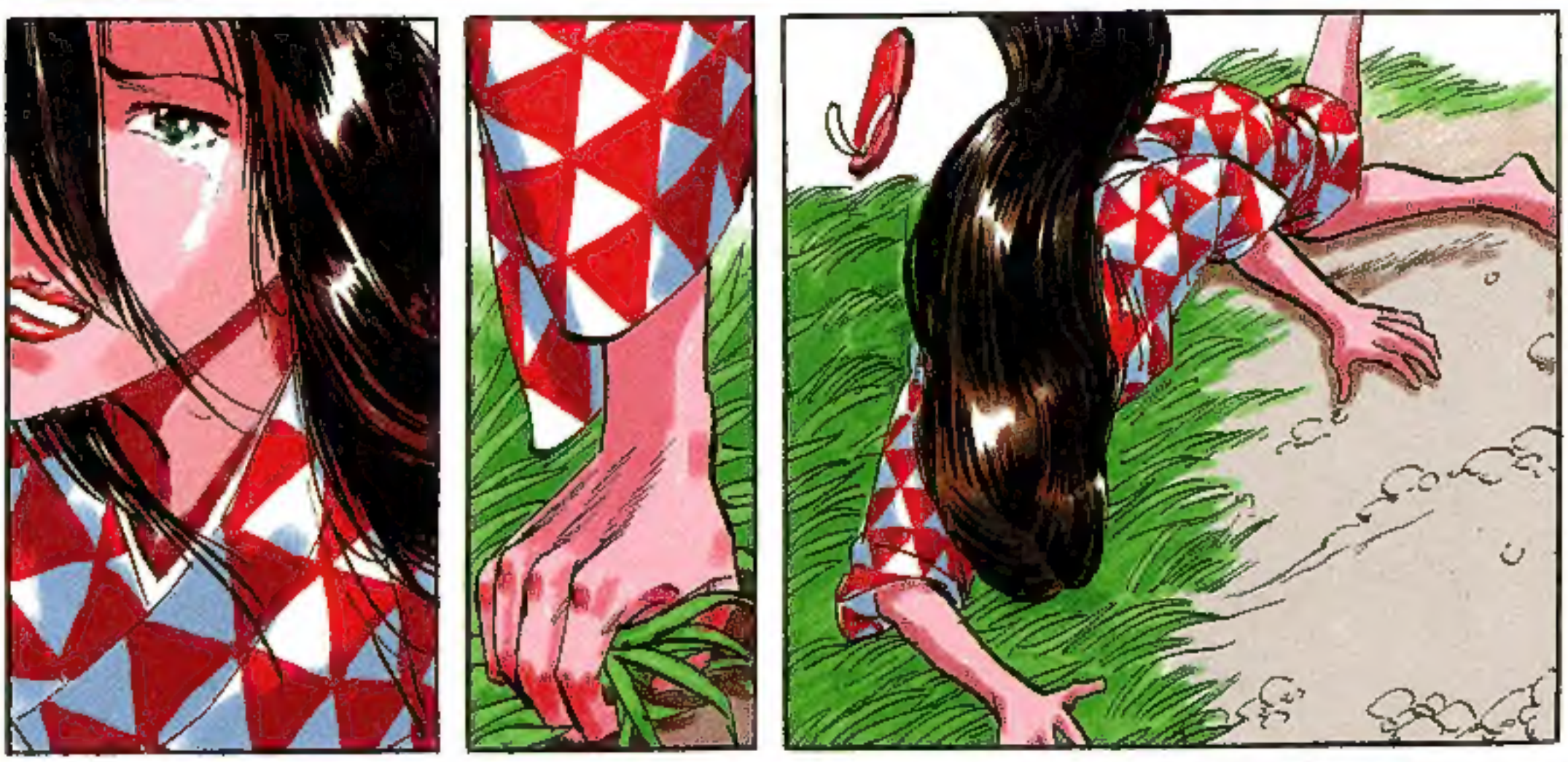
The mayor's daughter Kiyohime fell in love with him at first sight.

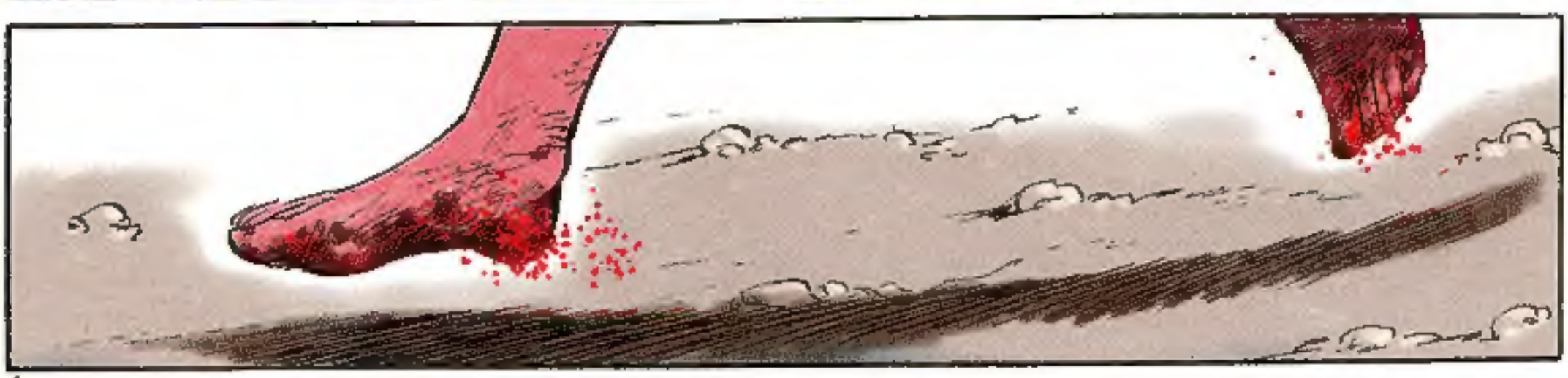
She earnestly confessed her love to him, but Anchin was troubled, for he was an ascetic. Thus, he left the town, telling her that he would stop by on his return from his pilgrimage to Kumano.

HIDAKA RIVER

His lie was soon found out.

Anchin had taken another way back, and was trying to cross the Hidaka River...





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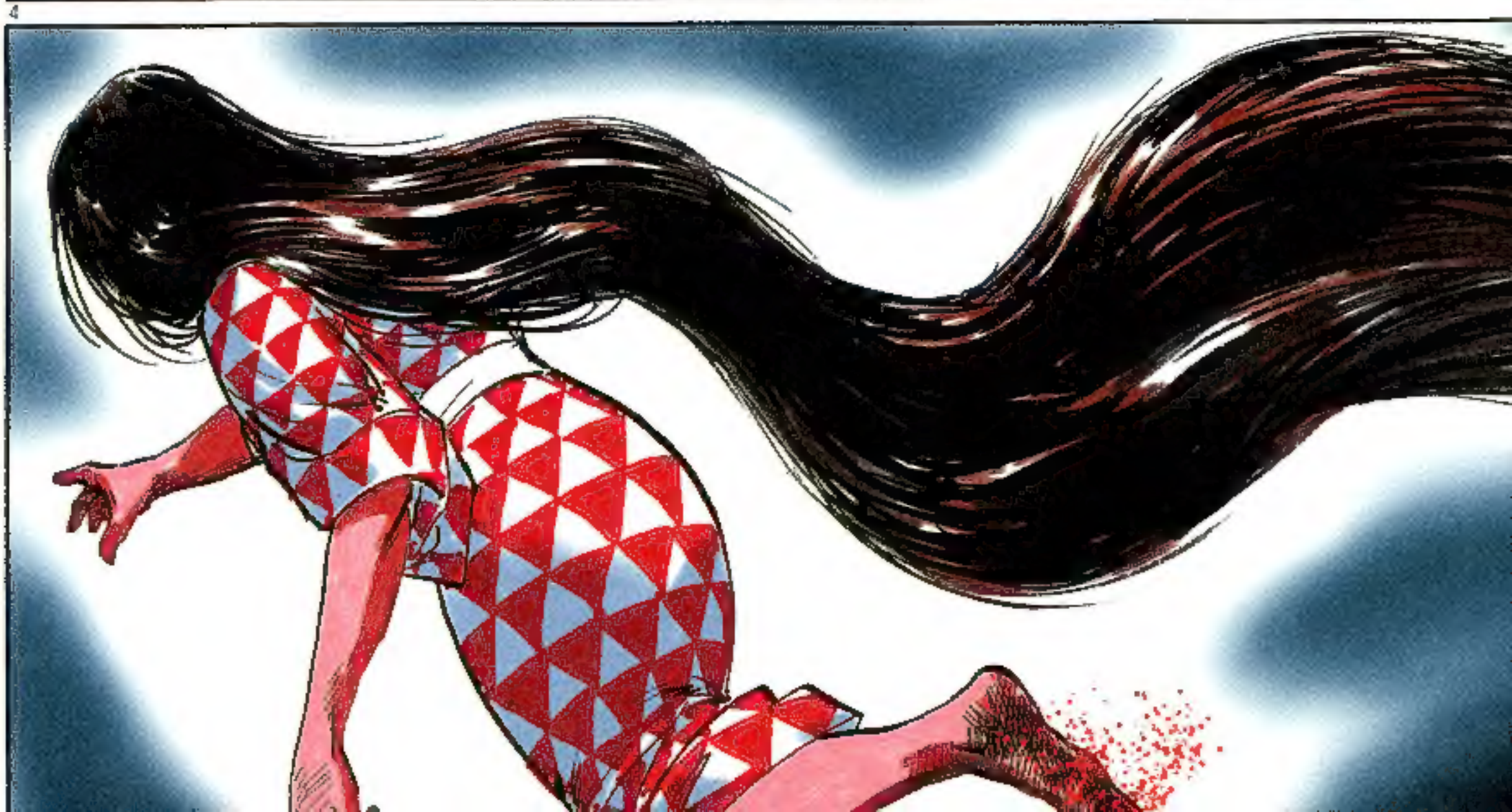


Her intense grief turned to intense hatred...

The monks of the temple heard his tale, and hastily hid him inside a bell.

Astounded by Kiyohime's transforma tion, Anchin just barely managed to escape to "Dojo Temple" on the other bank.

Anchin was burned, bell and all, and died...

Kiyohime drowned herself in the Hidaka River, and too perished...

This is the famous "Legend of Anchin and Kiyohime" of Dojo Temple.

Shima

Mie Prefecture

Wakayama Prefecture
Hidakagawa, Hidaka District

Wakayama Prefecture

"

THE LOCALS ARE WONDERING IF IT MIGHT BE THE SAME BELL THAT ANCHIN WAS BURNED ALIVE IN, AND AS YOU CAN SEE, WE HAVE QUITE A CROWD HERE...

HERE AT THE HIDAKA RIVER, NEAR THE SAME DOJO TEMPLE OF THE LEGEND OF ANCHIN AND KIYOHIME, A BELL HAS JUST BEEN PULLED OUT OF THE RIVER!

.....

THIS LEGEND HAS OFTEN BEEN USED AS THE SOURCE MATERIAL FOR NOH OR KABUKI PLAYS.

DOJO TEMPLE IS FAMOUSLY KNOWN FOR NOT HAVING A BELL, SINCE IT WAS SAID THAT ANY BELLS THEY MADE WOULD BE CURSED BY THE SPIRIT OF KIYOHIME.

YES, THERE WERE. THERE WAS A METALLIC REACTION AS WELL, SO I WAS COMMISSIONED TO CONDUCT AN UNDER-WATER STUDY.

BUT WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE A BELL SUNKEN IN THE RIVER...!

THERE WILL BE AN INVESTIGATION ON WHETHER NOT THIS BELL REALLY CAME FROM DOJO TEMPLE, BUT FOR NOW, LET'S TALK TO THE DIVER THAT DISCOVERED THIS BELL.

MS. HAYATAKA NAGISA... WERE THERE RUMORS OF SOMETHING HAVING SUNK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVERBED BEFORE YOU MADE THIS DISCOVERY?

OKAY, THAT'S A WRAP!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

14

YOU'RE THAT...

HUH?

NO... YOU CAN'T BE.

MY APOLO-GIES...

15

H...HEY! LOOK OUT!!

17

WAA AAA AAA AAAU GH!!

FFF...!

IT'S THE "CURSE"!

THE CURSE OF KIYO-HIME...!

I...

Dojo Temple

While colored with its bizarre legends and performances, this is the only ancient temple of Kii, said to have been built at the behest of Emperor Monmu in the 8th Century

Dojo Temple ...

EXCUSE ME...

THE BELFRY RUINS... I SEE. SO THIS TEMPLE HASN'T HAD A BELL EVER SINCE.

I'M SORRY... I WAS CURIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING, SO I FOLLOWED YOU.

YOU SEEMED TO MISTAKE ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE EARLIER. CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT THAT?

BUT THAT WAS THIRTY YEARS AGO... HEHEH, I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE MYSELF...

OH... IT'S JUST THAT YOU LOOKED SO MUCH LIKE HER THAT I COULDN'T HELP SPEAKING TO YOU.

WHAT WAS HER NAME!?

W...WHO WAS SHE?

THIRTY YEARS?

MY NAME'S HAYATAKA NAGISA...

I...I'M NOT TRYING TO BE SUSPICIOUS.

THIS CERTAINLY IS A COINCIDENCE...

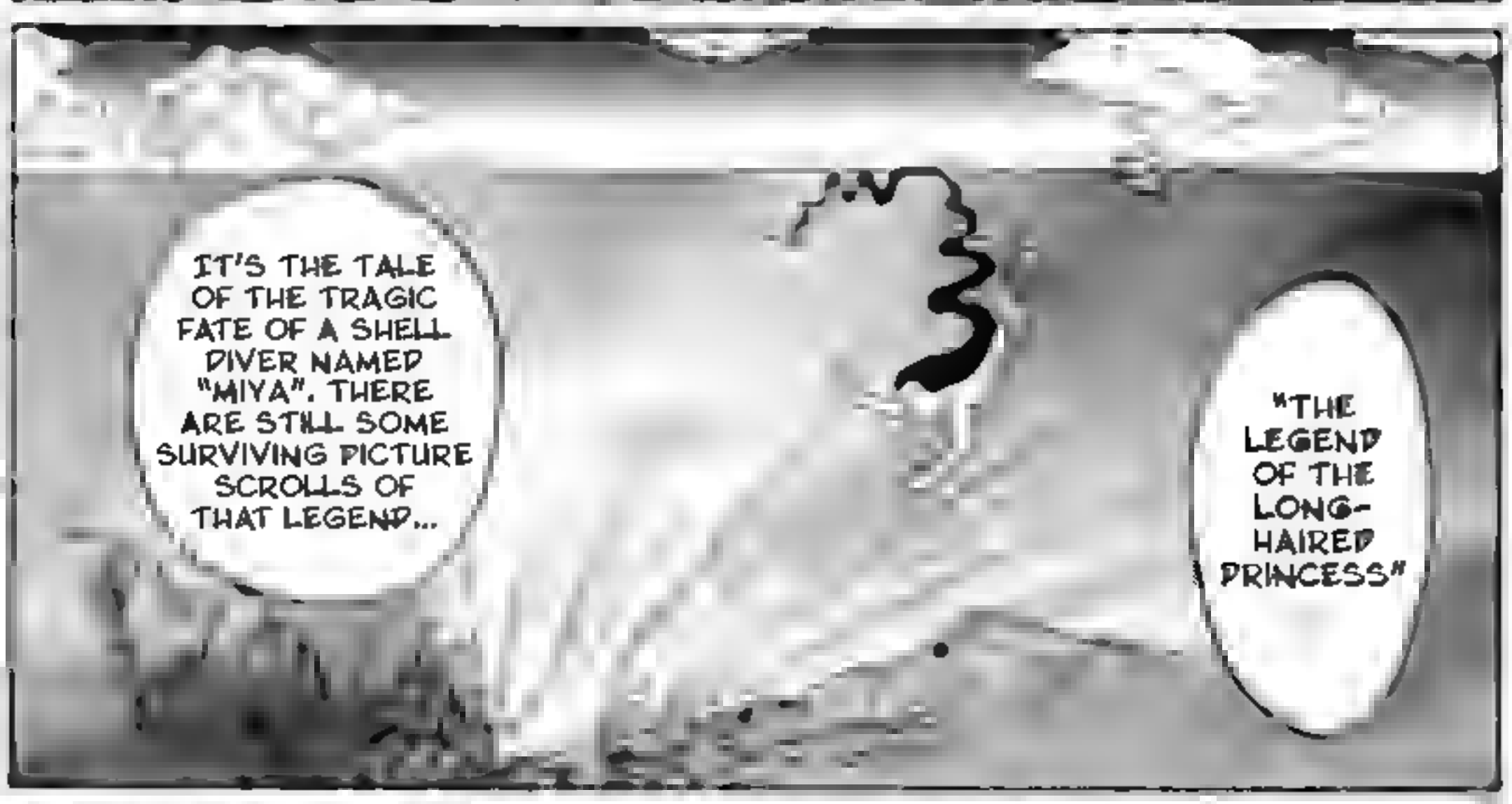
I JUST HAPPENED TO HEAR THE NEWS ABOUT THE BELL YOU DISCOVERED, SO I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY ON MY WAY TO MY ACADEMIC CONFERENCE IN KYOTO...

PROFESSOR... OF FOLKLORISTICS?

I'M MUNAKATA... I'M A PROFESSOR OF FOLKLORISTICS.

YOU WERE JUST INTERVIEWED ON TV, WEREN'T YOU?

TEMPLE ACTUALLY HAS ANOTHER, OLDER LEGEND THAN ANCHIN AND KIYOHIME...


IT'S THE TALE OF THE TRAGIC FATE OF A SHELL DIVER NAMED "MIYA". THERE ARE STILL SOME SURVIVING PICTURE SCROLLS OF THAT LEGEND...
"THE LEGEND OF THE LONG-HAIRED PRINCESS"

BUT THE WOMAN I MET THIRTY YEARS AGO WAS LIKEWISE A SHELL DIVER FROM SHIMA, IN THE NEIGH-

I FORGET HER SUR-NAME, BUT I RECALL THAT HER NAME WAS MASAGO...

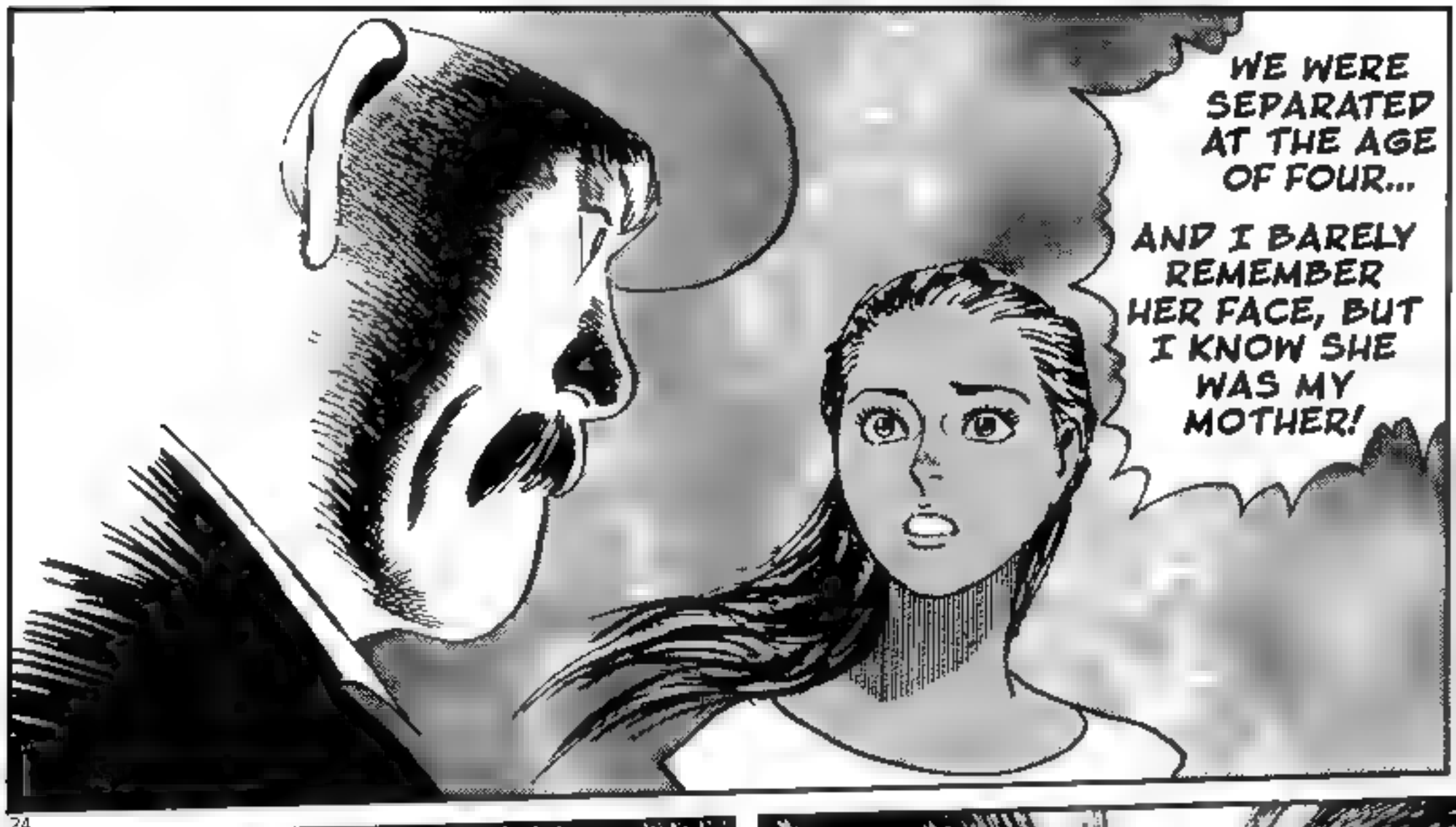
BACK WHEN I WAS A UNIVERSITY STUDENT, I HAD YET TO NARROW DOWN MY RESEARCH TOPIC, SO I LOOKED INTO A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS.

ONE OF THEM WAS RESEARCH-ING THE CUSTOMS AND FAITHS OF THE SHELL DIVERS, SO I STAYED IN SHIMA FOR TWO WEEKS...

MASA-GO!

MASAGO IS MY MOTHER'S NAME!

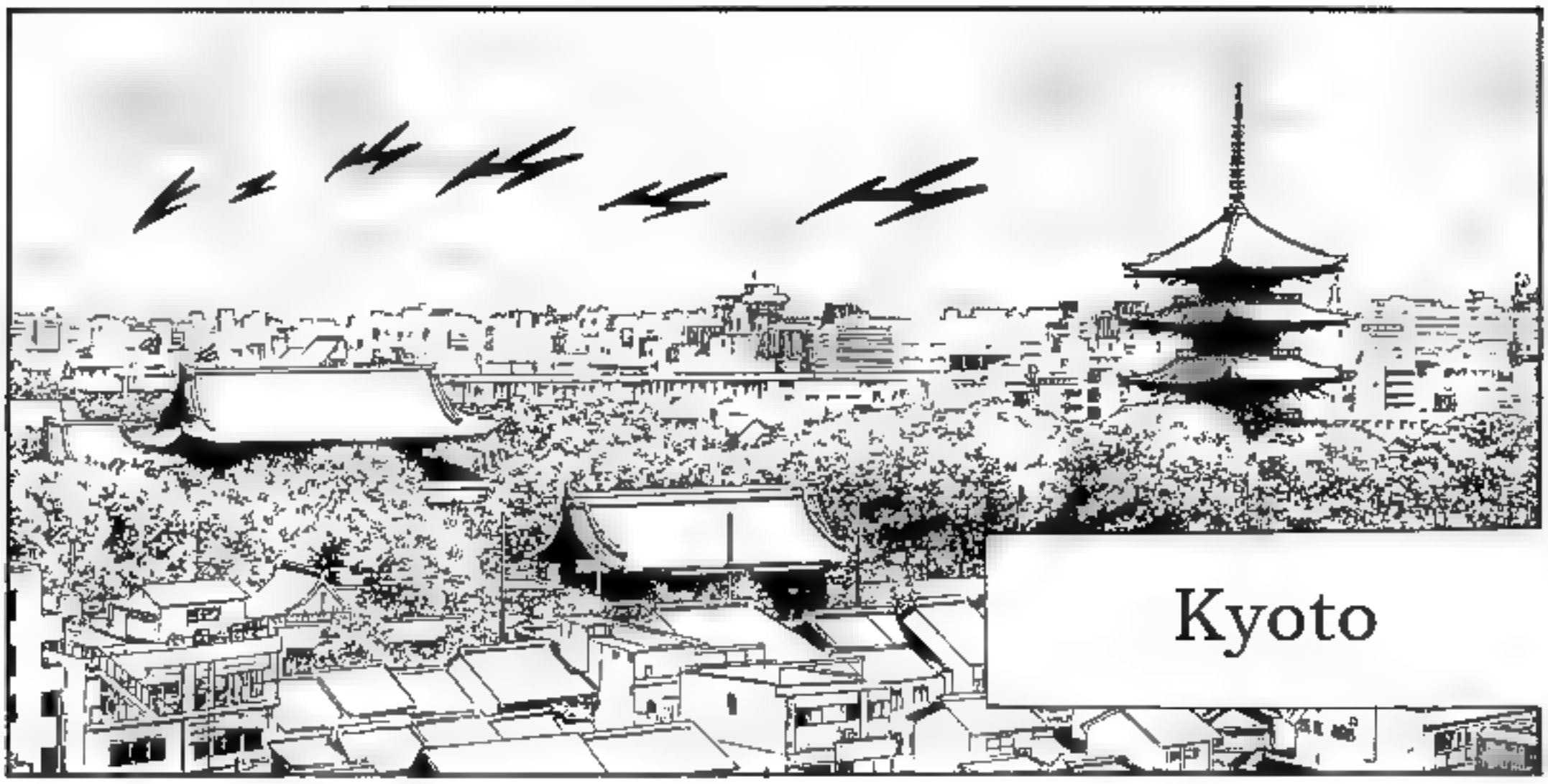
WHERE IN SHIMA WAS THAT?

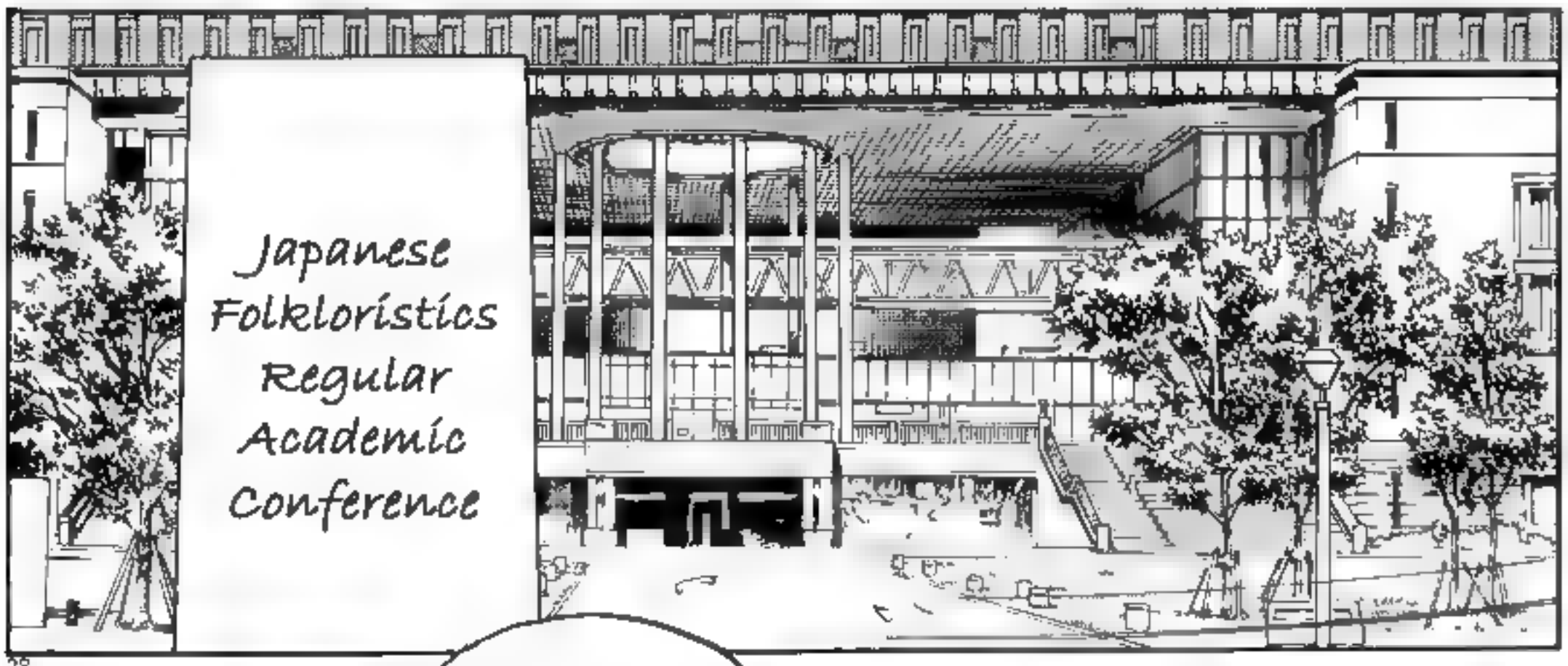

WE WERE SEPARATED AT THE AGE OF FOUR...
AND I BARELY REMEMBER HER FACE, BUT I KNOW SHE WAS MY MOTHER!

I had been caught up in a mysterious fate

These two women I met by coincidence were related by blood .

And to think that this would eventually lead to the secret hidden in the legend of Dojo Temple.. !


Kyoto


Japanese
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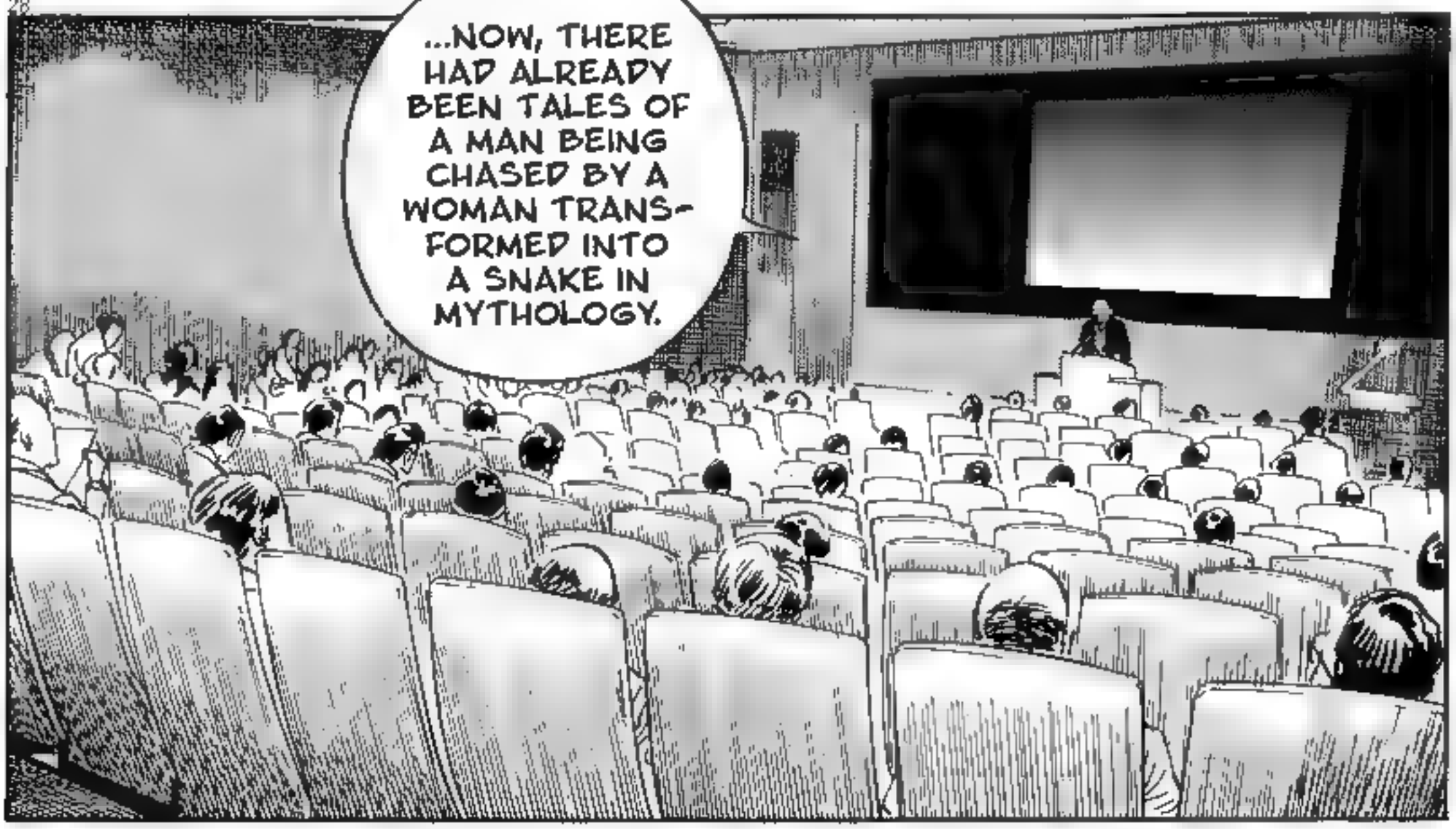
Regular
Academic
Conference


...NOW, THERE HAD ALREADY BEEN TALES OF A MAN BEING CHASED BY A WOMAN TRANS-FORMED INTO A SNAKE IN MYTHOLOGY.

THIS MYTH IS IN THE KOJIKI... WHEN EMPEROR SUININ'S SON HOMUCHIWAKE WAS JOURNEY-ING TO IZUMO.

AT IZUMO, THE PRINCE MET A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN NAMED HINAGAHIME, WITH WHOM HE WOULD SPEND A NIGHT OF PASSION...

THE PRINCE, WHO WAS MUTE FROM BIRTH, LEARNED THAT HIS MUTENESS WAS CAUSED BY THE GOD OF IZUMO, AND HE TRAV-ELLED THERE TO WORSHIP THIS GOD.

BUT WHEN HE LOOKED AT HER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...

Thus he bolted upright and fled

When he had glanced upon the maiden, she had become as a serpent.

Stricken with grief, Hinagahime pursued by ship, illuminating the sea..

BUT THIS PROBABLY MEANS THAT SHE PURSUED HIM IN HER SNAKE FORM, WITH HER SCALES GLITTERING.
NOW, THIS IS INTERPRETED AS HINAGA-HIME CHASING HIM BY BOAT WHILE LIGHT-ING UP THE SEA...

And there came a god, illuminating the sea...
THIS IS BECAUSE THE GOD OF MT. MIWA, WHO CROSSED THE SEA TO HELP OKUNINUSHI, ALSO IN IZUMO, WAS A SERPENT GOD.

THERE IS ALSO A MYTH IN WHICH THE SEA GOD'S DAUGHTER TOYOTAMAHIME GAVE BIRTH TO AMATERASU'S GRANDSON NINIGI, BUT SHE IS SEEN TRANSFORMING INTO A DRAGON, AND RETURNS TO THE SEA ENRAGED.

SO I AM LED TO BELIEVE THAT THE "SEAFOLK" WERE THE BEARERS OF THESE LEGENDS.

NOW, AS YOU CAN SEE, MANY OF THESE MYTHS INVOLVE THE SEA OR WATER...

"THE SEAFOLK OF WA DIVE INTO THE OCEAN TO GATHER FISH AND CLAMS." THESE SEAFOLK, WHO WERE MUCH LIKE THE SHELL DIVERS OF TODAY, WERE MENTIONED IN THE HISTORY OF WEI.

AS THEY TRAVELLED BY SEA, IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME OF THEM CAME FROM CHINA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND MANY OF THEM WORSHIPPED SERPENTS AND DRAGONS AS THEIR GUARDIAN DEITY.

THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THE NAME "HINAGAHIME" MEANS A WOMAN HIDING HER SERPENT NATURE!

SOME SAY THAT THIS MADE ITS WAY TO JAPAN, WHERE THEY BEGAN CALLING SNAKES "NAGAMUSHI", EVENTUALLY LEADING TO THE WORD "NAGAI", MEANING LONG.

IN INDIA, THERE IS THE SERPENT GOD NAGA, WHICH SYMBOLIZES THE GREAT RIVER.

I CAN IMAGINE THAT SUCH LEGENDS WERE PASSED DOWN BY THE SEAFOLK SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL... THAT DISGRACING THE WOMEN OF THE SEAFOLK WOULD LEAD TO DISASTER!

WELL, I'M SHOCKED TO SEE YOU SNUCK INTO AN ACADEMIC CONFERENCE FOR FOLKLORISTS.

KYOTO IS MY HOMETOWN, AND I'VE GOT A LOT OF CONNECTIONS...

CONNECTIONS?

PROFESSOR HAYATAKA?

OH, YES, I'VE HEARD OF YOU BEFORE...

I'M HAYATAKA FROM ARASHIYAMA UNIVERSITY.

OH... WELL...

HE'S MY FATHER ...

COME TO THINK OF IT, THE MUNAKATA CLAN OF NORTHERN KYUSHU WAS FAMOUS AMONG THE ANCIENT SEAFOLK, ALONG WITH THE AZUMI CLAN, OKINAGA CLAN, AND AMABE CLAN.

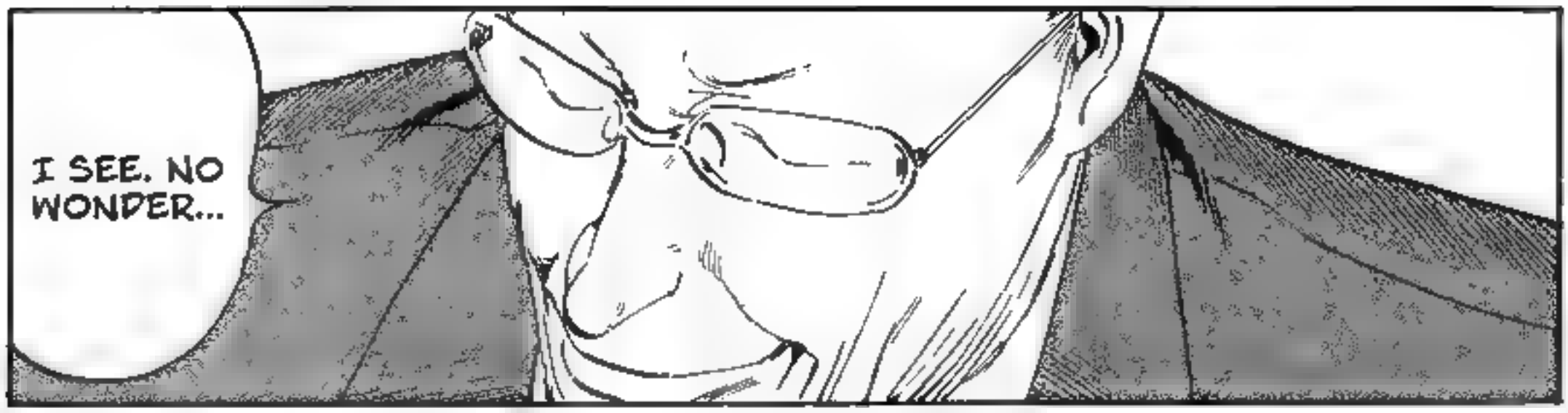
YOUR THEORY WAS TRULY INTERESTING.

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT THE SEAFOLK WOULD HAVE PASSED ON THE SERPENT LEGENDS.

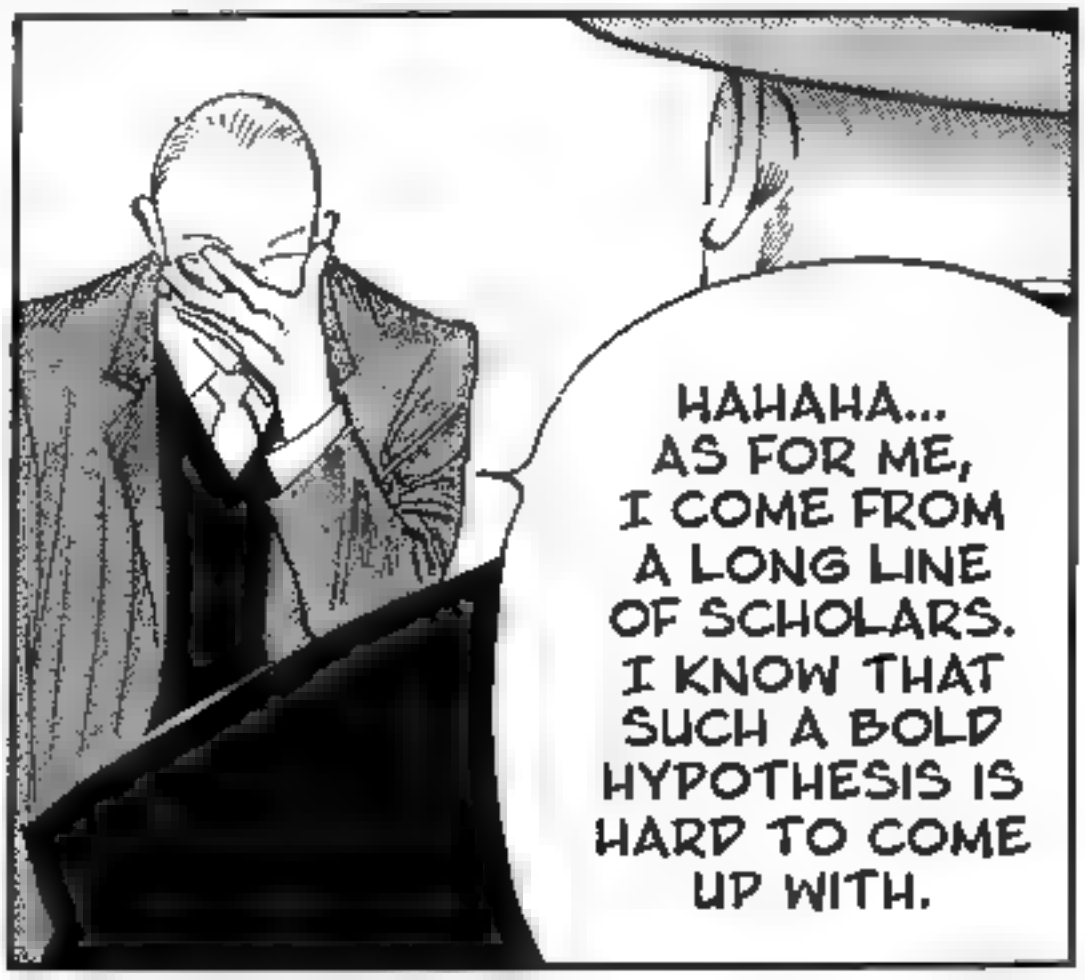
MY ANCESTORS WERE THE MUNAKATA CLAN, THE SEAFOLK THAT RULED THE SEA OF GENKAI.

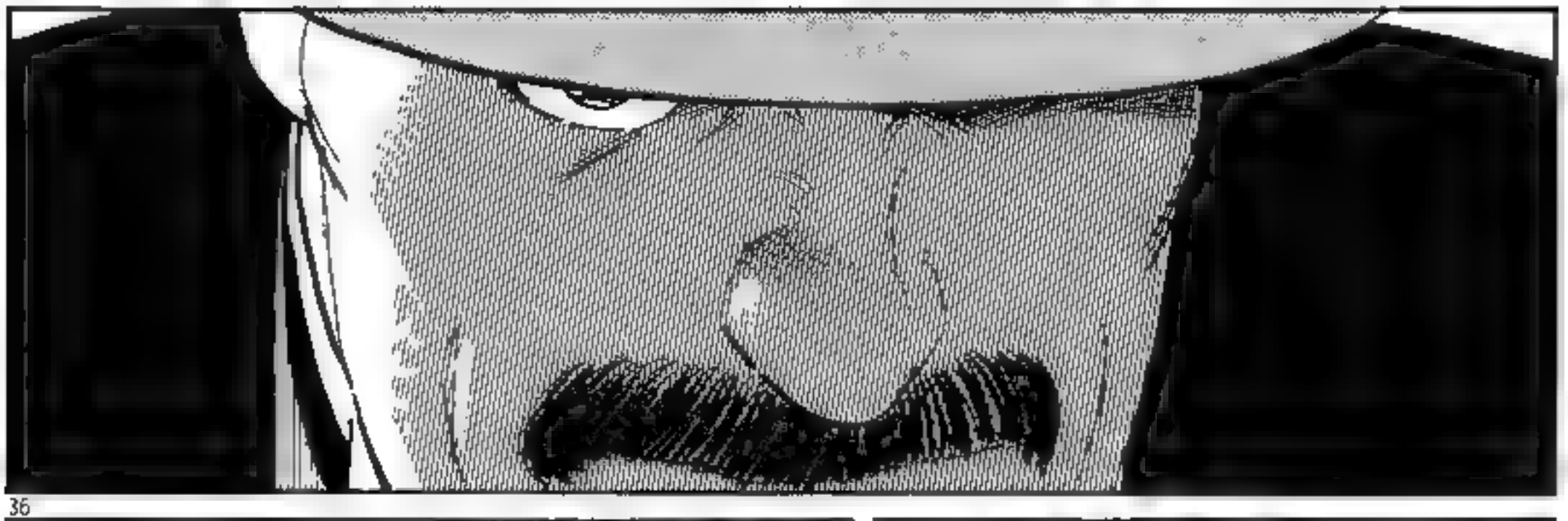
INDEED, I DO...!

YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY RELATION TO THEM, WOULD YOU...?


I SEE. NO WONDER...

I GUESS YOU PEOPLE THAT USED TO DIVE NAKED INTO THE SEA HAVE SOME IMPRESSIVE IDEAS, AFTER ALL.


HAHAHA... AS FOR ME, I COME FROM A LONG LINE OF SCHOLARS. I KNOW THAT SUCH A BOLD HYPOTHESIS IS HARD TO COME UP WITH.



I...I'M SORRY! LET'S GO, PROFES-SOR MU-NAKATA.

FATHER!

LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGH-TER...!

HMPF!

NAGISA! YOU NEED TO QUIT YOUR WORTHLESS JOB AND COME BACK HOME!

BUT THAT'S RIGHT.

I AM A DESCEN-DANT OF THE SEA-FOLK...

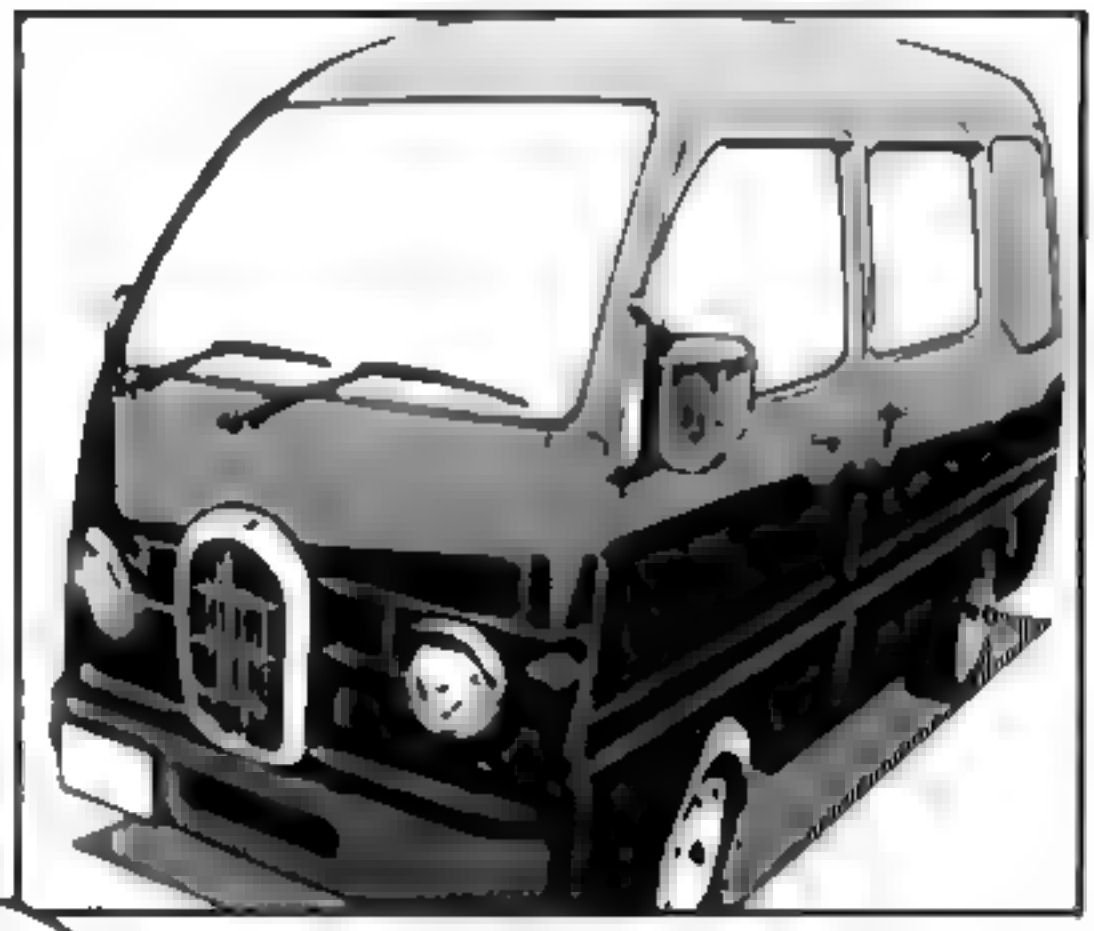
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT...

IT'S NOTH-ING...

IN A WAY, MY VISIT WITH THE SHELL DIVERS OF SHIMA WAS PART OF A SEARCH FOR MY KIN...

THAT HELPED ME REMEMBER HOW I WAS INTRIGUED BY MY SEAFOLK ANCESTORS IN MY YOUTH.

HAVE YOU GONE TO SHIMA?
YES...



I THOUGHT SOMEONE THERE MIGHT KNOW MY MOTHER'S WHEREABOUTS... OR PERHAPS MY MOTHER WAS STILL DIVING FOR SHELLS...
BUT I COULDN'T FIND HER...

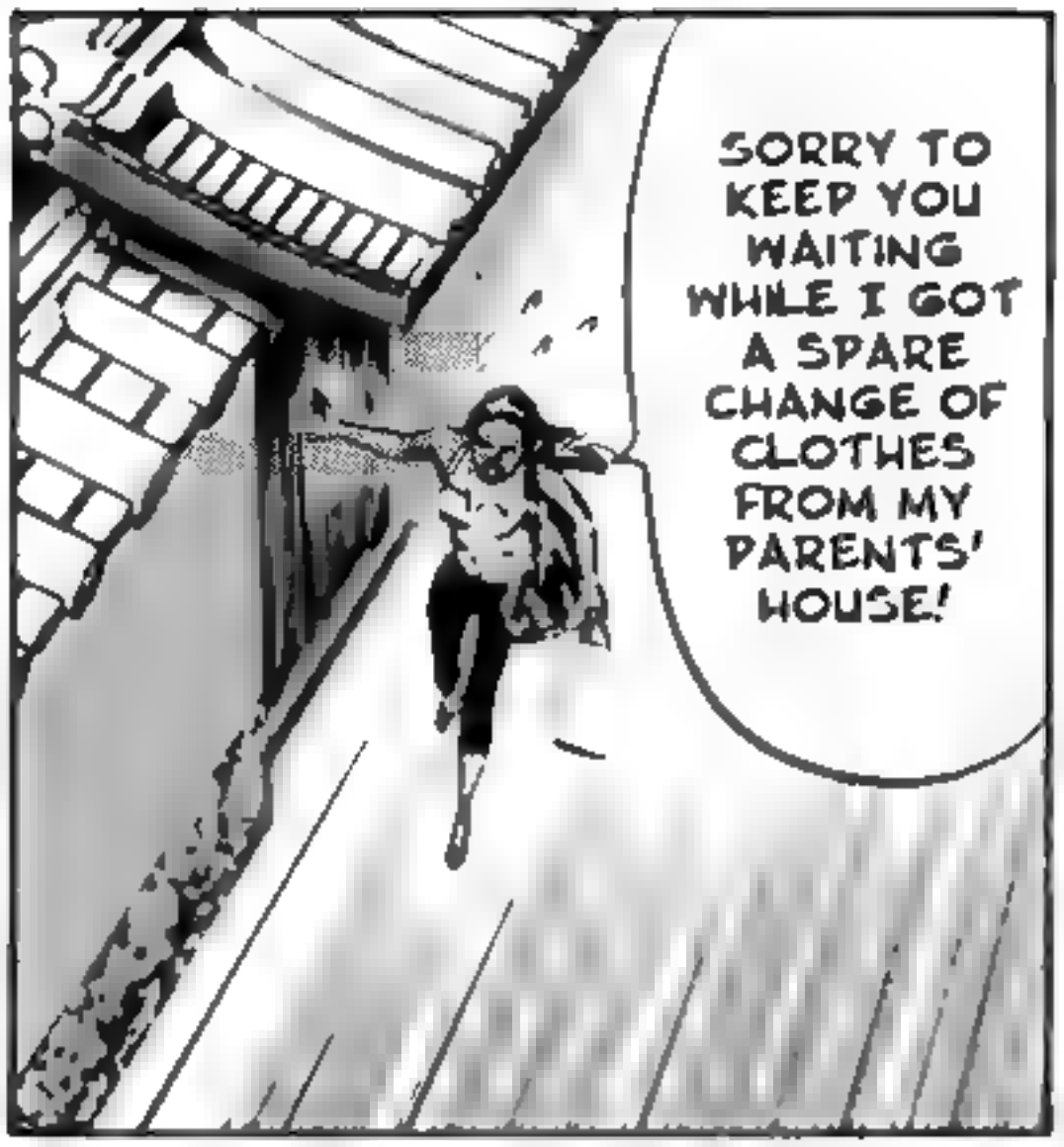
.....

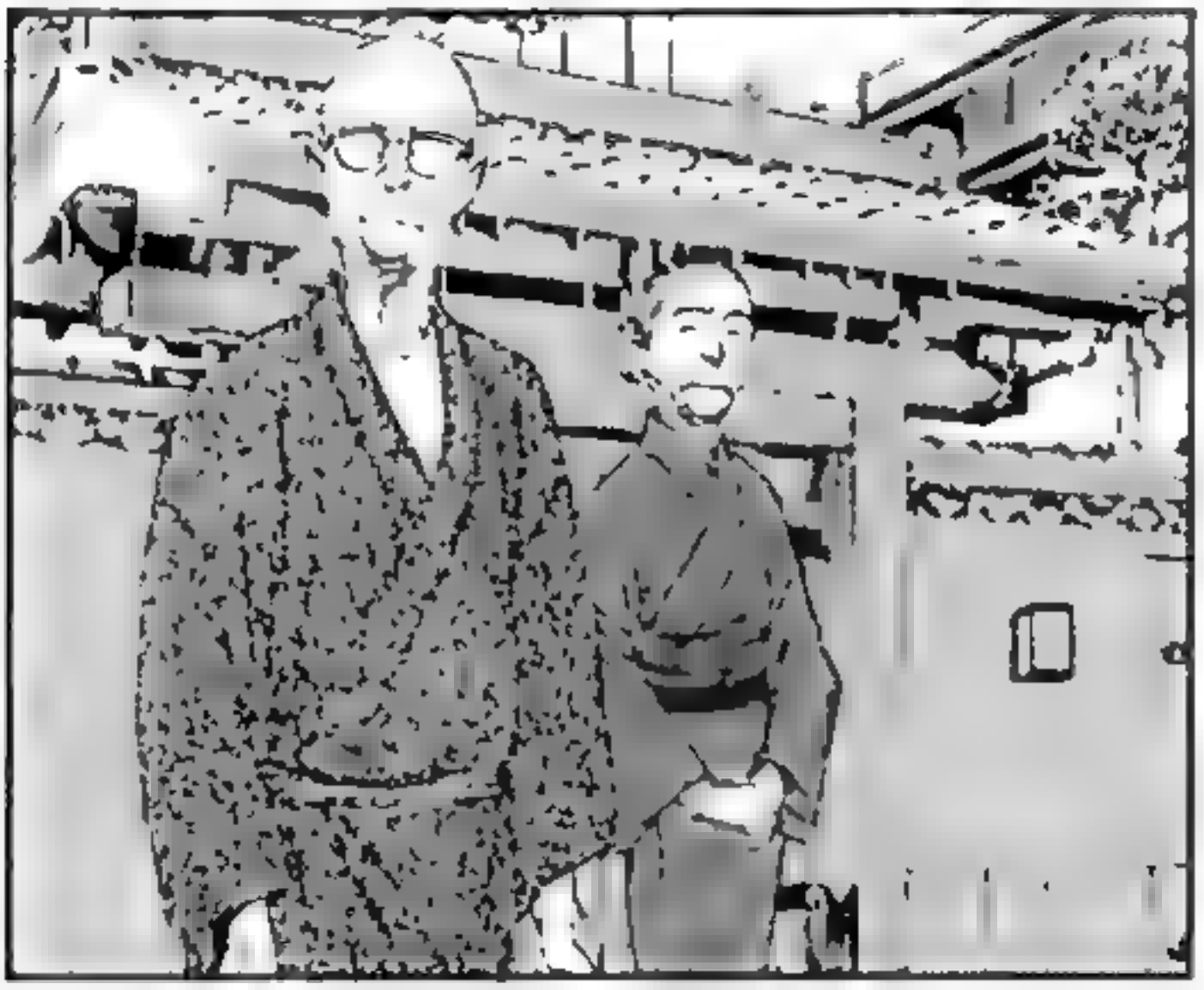
THAT SHOULD BE PERFECT. I HAVE TO GET BACK TO MY STUDY OF THE HIDAKA RIVERBED...

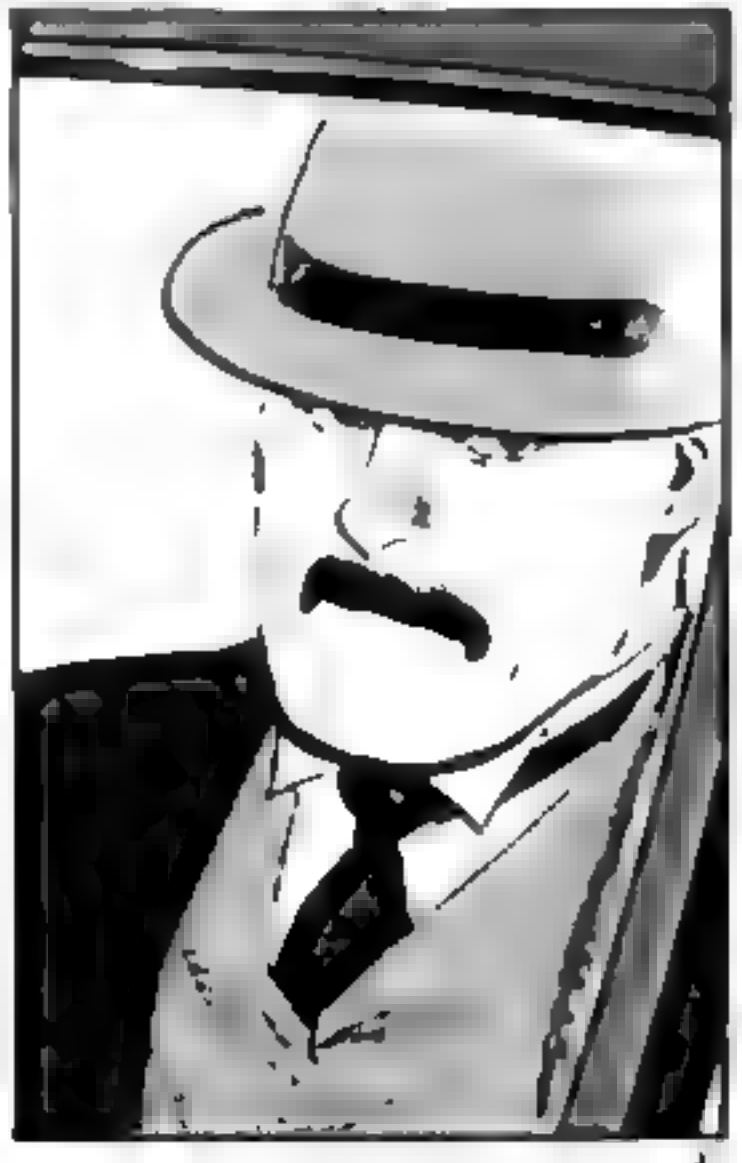
I'M INTERESTED IN THE DATING ON THAT BELL, SO I'M GOING TO STOP BY KISHU UNIVERSITY IN WAKAYAMA BEFORE HEADING BACK UP TO TOKYO.

HAYATA

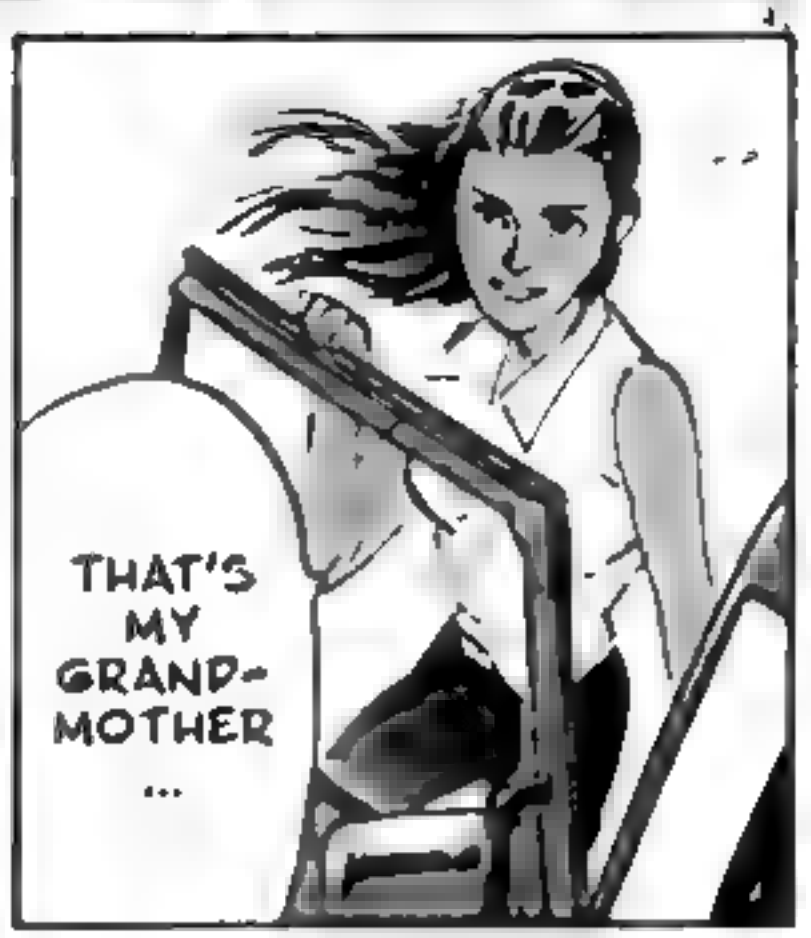
I PRACTICALLY RAN AWAY FROM HOME TO DO THIS JOB, YOU SEE.


SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING WHILE I GOT A SPARE CHANGE OF CLOTHES FROM MY PARENTS' HOUSE!





EVER SINCE MY MOTHER LEFT THE HOUSE FOLLOWING THE DIVORCE, I'VE BEEN RAISED BY MY FATHER AND GRAND-MOTHER...
MY FATHER NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT MY MOTHER BEYOND HER NAME.

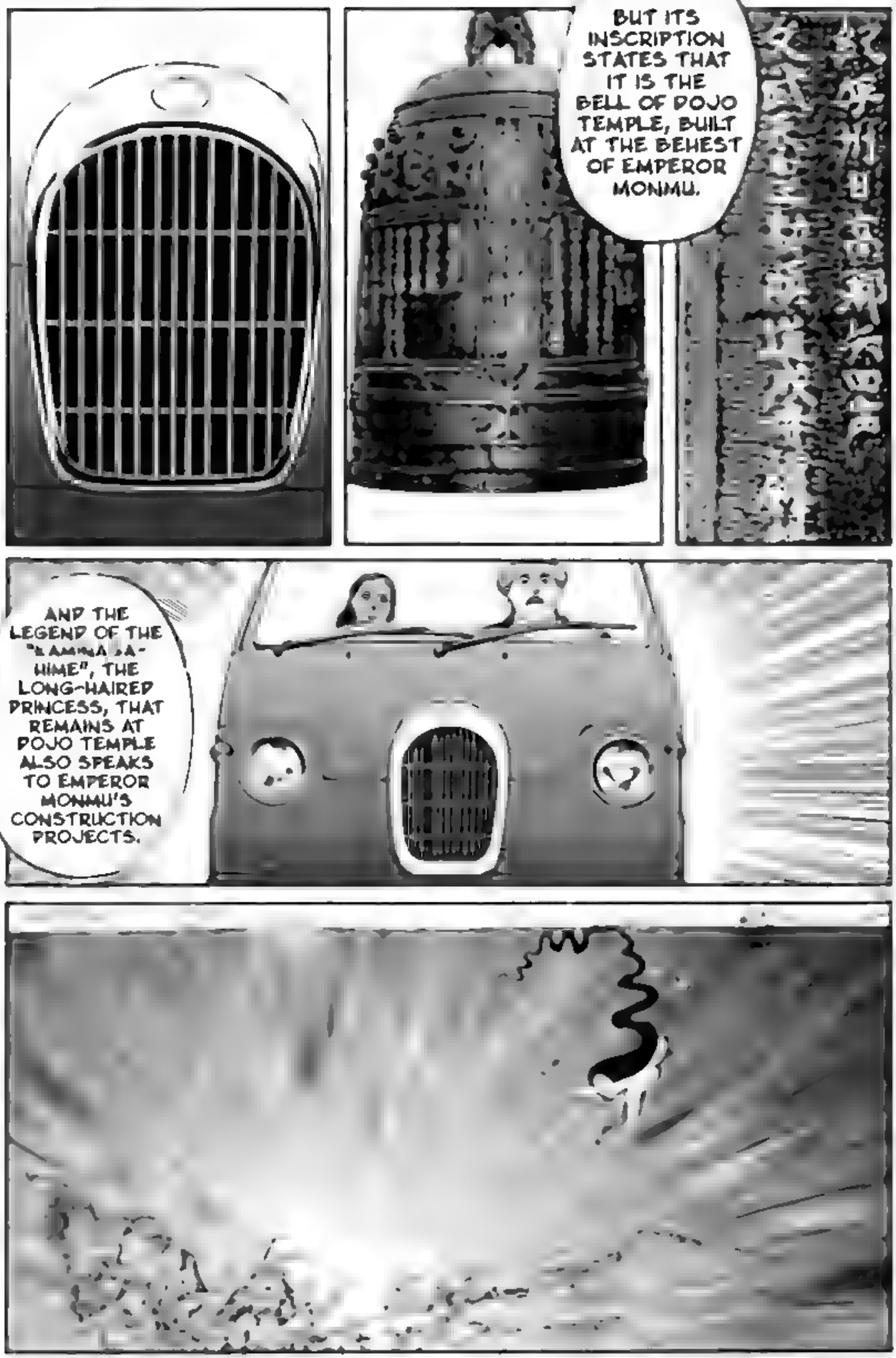

THAT'S MY GRAND-MOTHER ...

I GUESS MASAGO NEVER REALLY FIT IN HERE...

.....

SPEAKING OF KYOTO, FOR SOME REASON MYOMAN TEMPLE IN RAKUHOKU HAS THE BELL OF DOJO TEMPLE.

DOJO TEMPLE NEVER RESTORED ITS BELL, PERHAPS DUE TO THE CURSE. NOT EVEN THIS BELL MADE IN THE 14TH CENTURY...


BUT ITS INSCRIPTION STATES THAT IT IS THE BELL OF DOJO TEMPLE, BUILT AT THE BEHEST OF EMPEROR MONMU.
AND THE LEGEND OF THE "KAMUNA DA-HIME", THE LONG-HAIRED PRINCESS, THAT REMAINS AT DOJO TEMPLE ALSO SPEAKS TO EMPEROR MONMU'S CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

In the village of Kuama, in the province of Kii, a shell diver found a small shining statue of Kannon at the ocean floor, and brought it home. .

The shell diver's daughter "Miya" was born unable to grow any hair, which gave her concern, but when she prayed to the statue of Kannon, she grew up beautifully with long, luscious, black hair

Because of her long hair, Miya was invited to the court in Nara, and eventually Emperor Monmu fell in love with her, taking her in as the imperial consort "Miyako"..

THIS HUMBLE DAUGHTER OF THE SEAFOLK WAS NOW IN A POSITION OF DAZZLING EMINENCE, BUT AS TIME PASSED, SHE BEGAN TO SINK LOWER AND LOWER INTO SORROW.

When she was asked why, she said that she missed her hometown of Kuama, and was worried about the statue of Kannon.

45

To assuage Miyako's grief, Emperor Monmu summoned Ki no Michinari and ordered him to build a temple in the village of Kuama to house the statue of Kannon.

47

They began harvesting lumber with which to build the temple, and took it downstream along the Hidaka River.

But as Ki no Michinari himself was riding a raft at the head of the procession, he hit the Hidaka River's rapids ..

In honor of "Narimichi's" sacrifice, the completed temple was called "Dojo Temple".

And the spirit of Ki no Narimichi is en shrined in Kido Shrine.

The name of Kuama Village still lives on as Kuama Shrine ..

SO DOES THE SAME GO FOR KAMINAGA-HIME...!?

BACK AT THE CONFERENCE, YOU SAID THAT THE "NAGA" IN HINAGAHIME MEANT A SERPENT...

P... PRO-FESSOR MUNA-KATA...

I SUSPECT THAT THESE STORIES THAT APPEAR DIFFERENT AT FIRST GLANCE ACTUALLY TELL OF THE SAME EVENT!

THE LEGEND OF THE LONG-HAIRED PRINCESS, AND THE LATER LEGEND OF ANCHIN AND KIYOHIME...

PRECISELY. YOU'RE JUST AS PERCEPTIVE AS YOUR FATHER.

THE TALE OF EMPEROR MONMU'S CONSORT... THE HISTORICAL MIYAKO...!

MIYA, THE LONG-HAIRED PRINCESS...

SHE REALLY EXISTED!

THE DAUGHTER OF THE

AND THE PRINCE SHE GAVE BIRTH TO WAS EMPEROR SHOMU, WHO ORDERED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GREAT BUDDHA OF TODAI TEMPLE!

IN THE HISTORICAL RECORDS, FUJIWARA-NO-MIYAKO WAS THE DAUGHTER OF FUJIWARA-NO-FUHITO, WHO BUILT THE FOUNDATION OF THE REGENCY GOVERNMENT.

SO WHY WOULD A WOMAN OF SUCH A HIGH STATUS...!?

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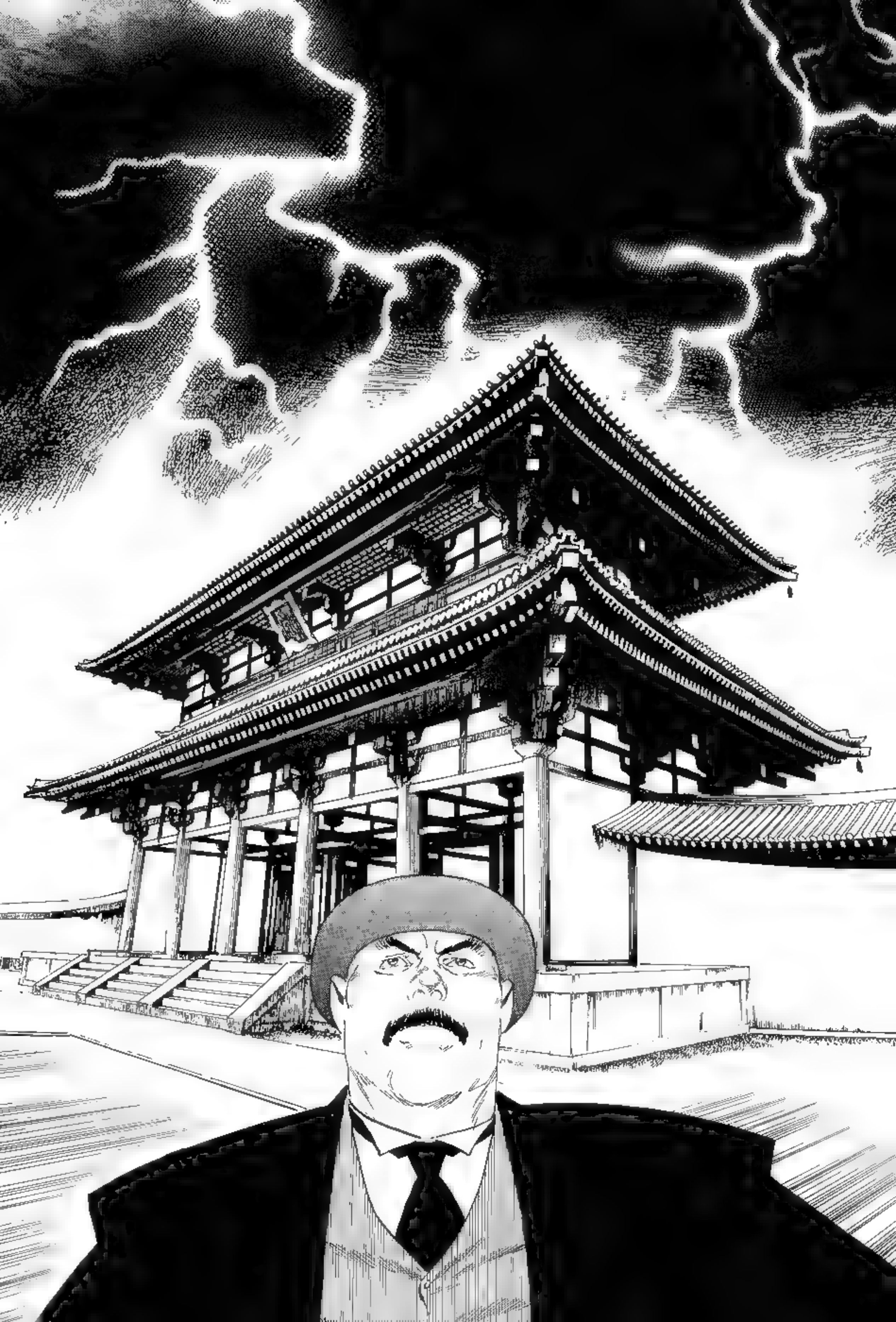

BACK IN THOSE DAYS, FROM THE LATE 7TH TO THE 8TH CENTURY...

EMPRESS JITO ABDICATED THE THRONE TO EMPEROR MONMU, AND JAPAN WAS ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING A STATE GOVERNED BY RITSURYO LAW.

THE SOGA CLAN WAS DESTROYED IN THE TAIKA'S REVOLUTIONARY COUP D'ÉTAT, AND FUJIWARA-NO-FUHITO, SON OF NAKATOMI-NO-KATAMARI, LAUNCHED HIS POLITICAL CAREER AND CONSOLIDATED HIS BASE OF AUTHORITY.

IN TAIHO YEAR 1 (701), SHE GAVE BIRTH TO PRINCE OBITO, LATER EMPEROR SHOMU.

IT WAS IN THOSE TIMES THAT "FUHITO'S DAUGHTER" MIYAKO BECAME THE IMPERIAL CONSORT.

FUJIWARA-NO-FUHITO THEN BECAME THE EMPEROR'S GRANDFATHER, AND EVENTUALLY HIS OTHER DAUGHTER, KOMYOSHI, BECAME EMPEROR SHOMU'S CONSORT, THUS STRENGTHENING THEIR TIES.

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THE FIRST STEP OF THE FUJIWARA CLAN'S MILLENNIUM BEGAN WITH MIYAKO. BUT...

FOLLOWING THIS, ALMOST EVERY IMPERIAL CONSORT CAME FROM THE FUJIWARA CLAN, AND THIS RELATIONSHIP CONTINUED FOR A MILLENNIUM... UNTIL THE END OF THE LAST SHOGUNATE.

"The imperial consort was stricken with grief, and long abandoned all others .. Not once did she face the Emperor since his birth."
Shoku Nihongi, Tempyo year 9

JUST LIKE MIYAKO IN THE LEGEND OF THE LONG-HAIRED PRINCESS, SHE WAS PLUNGED IN A DEEP SORROW, AND SHE NEVER ONCE MET EMPEROR SHOMU AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO HIM.

THIS WAS RECORDED 37 YEARS AFTER HIS BIRTH. MIYAKO SPENT 37 YEARS WITHOUT ONCE SEEING HER OWN SON...!

PERHAPS THE PRINCE WAS TAKEN FROM MIYAKO IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS BIRTH, AND RAISED AT THE HANDS OF FUJIWARA-NO-FUHITO.

PERHAPS IT'S NOT THAT SHE NEVER MET HIM, BUT RATHER... THAT SHE COULD NEVER MEET HIM.

W...WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?

55

THE THEORY THAT MIYAKO WAS NOT FUHITO'S REAL DAUGHTER, BUT AN UNRELATED WOMAN...

THAT SHE WAS NO MORE THAN A "SURROGATE MOTHER" FOR THE FUJIWARA CLAN, BEGINS HERE...!

In Monmu year 1 (697), a noble by the name of Ki no Maro visited the village of Kuama in the province of Kii

There is no historical evidence of a Ki no Michinari, but from ancient times many have said that Ki no Maro's real name was Michinari

Ki no Maro... Son of Ki no Ushi, a powerful landowner in the province of Ki, and vassal of Emperor Tenchi

His purpose in coming to the village of Kuama was to find a lady in waiting to serve the Emperor

And "Miya", who was known as the most beautiful among the seafolk

Or per haps ..

was chosen to live in the glorious capital. and serving the Emperor in his palace, no less

It truly was a dream come true.

She may have been roused by her feelings that were somewhere between adoration and love

The daughter of the seafolk was attracted to the noble Ki no Maro, who was like no man she had seen before

The capital was "Fujiwara kyo", which was just built in the land of Asuka .. It was the first city built on a grid in Japan.

It did not take long for Miya's beauty to catch Emperor Monmu's eyes.

And that was when Fujiwara no Fuhito became involved.

WAAAAH! WAAAAH!

He could not take the humble daughter of the seafolk as a con sort, but if she were made Fujiwara's daugh ter, she would have the proper pedigree. .

And should she give birth to a prince.. he would be the Fujiwara's emperor!

WAAA AAH...

AHHHH HHHHH HHH!!

A...

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH...

62

SHE WAS TAKEN FROM A SEASIDE VILLAGE TO THE COURT IN THE CITY, ALL ALONE WITH NO ONE TO TALK TO. TO THINK SHE WOULD HAVE HER SON TAKEN AWAY ON TOP OF THAT...!

64

EMPEROR MONMU MAY HAVE PITIED HER.

THE YEAR PRINCE OBITO WAS BORN, THE EMPEROR WAS MAKING A VISIT TO THE HOT SPRINGS OF SHIRAHAMA IN THE PROV-INCE OF KII...

But when he saw Miyako's hometown, he thought that building a temple there may assuage her grief.

So he gave the order to have a temple built there .. to Ki no Maro.

Perhaps due to his merits in discovering the beautiful Miyako, from whose loins the prince was born, Ki no Maro was promoted to Chief Councillor of State.

So began the con struction of Dojo Temple. .

Wakayama City

...THE BELL ITSELF IS DIFFICULT TO DATE, SO WE CAN'T PROVIDE A DEFINITIVE ANSWER YET...

Wakayama Prefectural Kishu University

...THERE WAS A FIBER ATTACHED TO THE BELL WHICH WE BELIEVE MAY HAVE BEEN A ROPE OR A CORD, WHICH WE DATED TO THE 7TH OR 8TH CENTURY.

JUST GIVE ME SOMETHING TO GO ON. A ROUGH ESTIMATE IS FINE.

THE 7TH OR 8TH CENTURY... THAT'S AROUND THE FOUNDING OF DOJO TEMPLE...!

FROM AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE, THE BELL HAS A SIMILAR DESIGN TO THE BELLS OF KANZEON TEMPLE IN KYUSHU, SAID TO BE THE OLDEST IN JAPAN, AND MYOSHIN TEMPLE OF THE MONMU PERIOD.

NOW I WANT TO SEE THE AREA THAT BELL SANK IN ON THE HIDAKA RIVER AGAIN.

THE TYPHOON'S MOVING FROM SHIKOKU TO AWAJI ISLAND... I THINK THE ATMOSPHERE'S GOING TO BE A LITTLE UNSTABLE IN THIS AREA, TOO.

HUH?

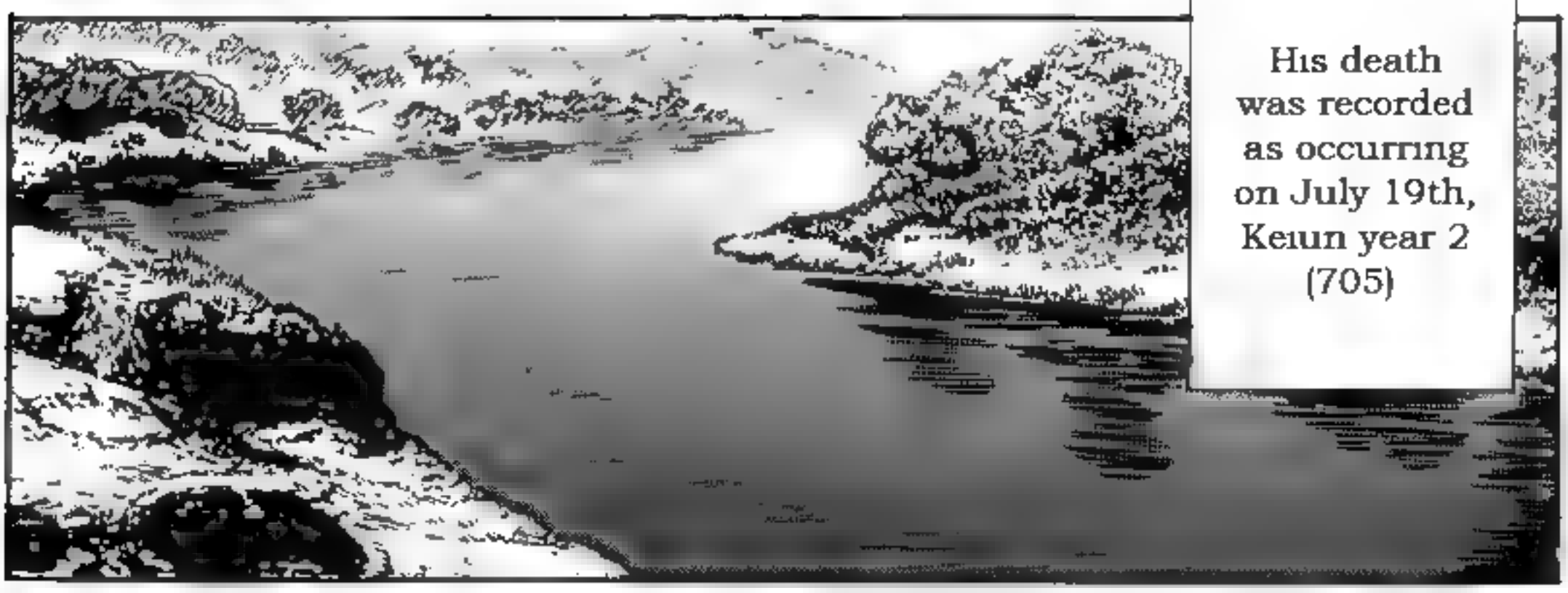
I HAD A FEELING RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING THAT THE BELL WAS FLOATED DOWN THE HIDAKA RIVER TO DOJO TEMPLE ON A RAFT!

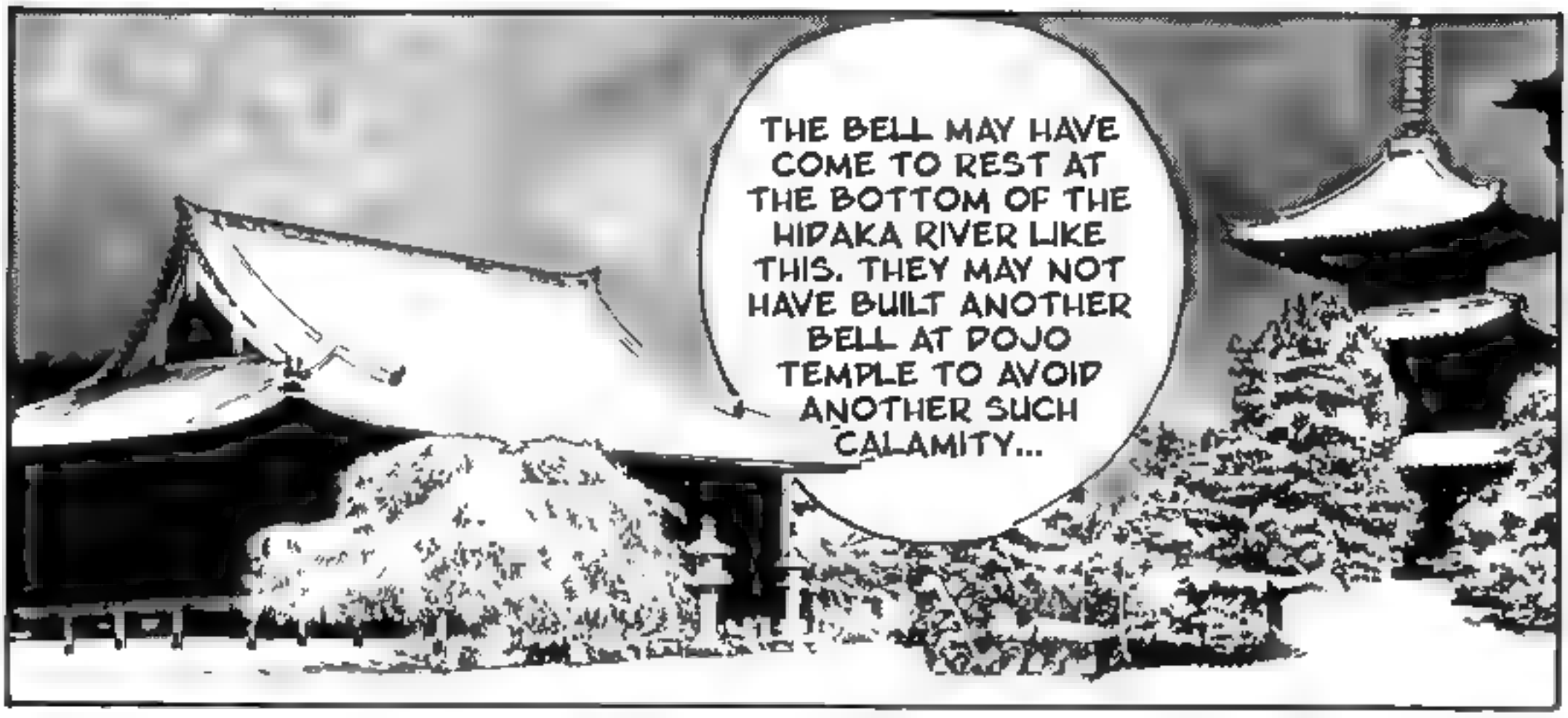
THE BELL WAS FORGED IN A SEPARATE LOCATION AND FLOATED DOWNSTREAM. KI-NO-MARO TOOK THE COMMAND OF THIS FINAL TASK HIMSELF

DOJO TEMPLE WAS COMPLETED, AND ONLY THE BELL NEEDED TO BE TRANS-PORTED IN.

But the area around Dojo Temple came to be called "Kanemaki", or bell wrapping

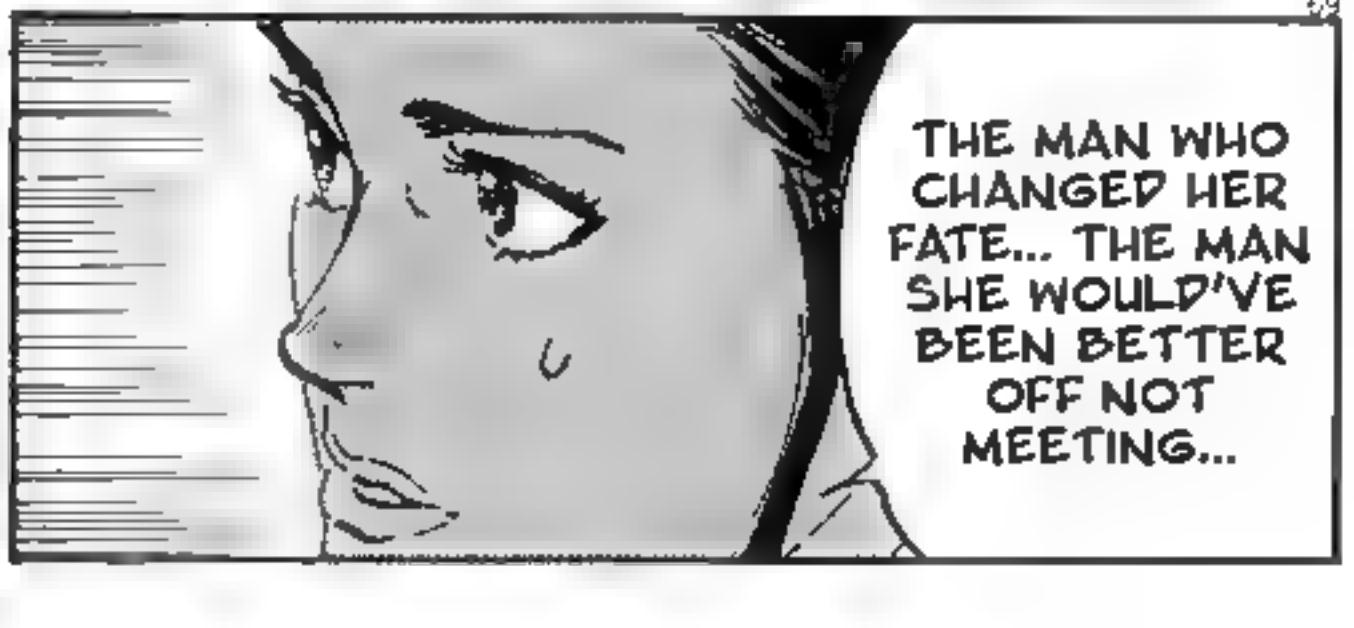
There is no evidence that Ki no Maro died in this way.


His death was recorded as occurring on July 19th, Keiun year 2 (705)


THE BELL MAY HAVE COME TO REST AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HIDAKA RIVER LIKE THIS. THEY MAY NOT HAVE BUILT ANOTHER BELL AT DOJO TEMPLE TO AVOID ANOTHER SUCH CALAMITY...

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN LIKE KI-NO-MARO TO MY MOTHER, PROFESSOR MUNAKATA...

.....
WHAT DID MIYAKO THINK OF KI-NO-MARO?


THE MAN WHO CHANGED HER FATE... THE MAN SHE WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER OFF NOT MEETING...

I...I'M SORRY. I WAS JUST PUZZLING OVER WHY MY MOTHER EVER MARRIED A MAN LIKE MY FATHER.

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I'M SURE MY MOTHER WAS...

BUT I HAVE A FEELING I UNDER-STAND, NOW THAT I KNOW THAT YOU'RE A FOLKLORIST AND THAT YOU MET MY MOTHER IN YOUR YOUTH...

DRAWN TO YOUR SHADOW EVEN AFTER YOU LEFT.

THEN MY FATHER, A FELLOW FOLKLORIST, CAME TO VISIT FOR RESEARCH...

I WONDER IF MASAGO HATED ME...

...I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY.

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN WHY MY MOTHER CHOSE A MISTAKEN DESTINY...

72

In her late life, Miyako met a monk named Genbo, and finally escaped her depressive state. She even met her son, Emperor Shomu.

74

on July 19th.

Miyako spent the last years of her life in a small temple called "Kairyuo Temple", and left this world in Tempyo Shoho year 6 (754)...

In the meantime, Emperor Monmu had perished, and Fujiwara no Fuhito had died as well

REMEMBER THAT! JULY 19TH!

THE SAME DAY OF THE SAME MONTH ...!?

KI-NO-MARO DIED IN 705, ABOUT 50 YEARS EARLIER, ALSO ON JULY 19TH!

HIDES THE SECRET OF THE LEGEND OF ANCHIN AND KIYOHIME OF DOJO TEMPLE!

EVEN IF THIS IS A MERE COINCIDENCE, I BELIEVE THAT KI-NO-MARO AND MIYAKO'S DEATHS 50 YEARS APART...

Hidaka River

I THINK THAT THIS WAS THE "LEGEND OF THE LONG-HAIRED PRINCESS" AS TOLD BY THE SEAFOLK OF KUAMA VILLAGE!

THE "LEGEND OF THE LONG-HAIRED PRINCESS" TELLS THE ORIGIN OF POJO TEMPLE, BUT I THINK THAT THE ORIGINAL CONCLUSION WAS THE EXACT OPPOSITE.

MIYAKO, WHO WAS TAKEN TO THE CITY AND [illegible] A SON OF [illegible] HAD A DAUGHTER OF THE SEAFOLK.

EI-NO-
MARO, WHO TOOK THEIR DAUGHTER AWAY, DIED ON JULY 19TH, 705..

THEY HAD TO TELL THEIR TALE FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR POWERFUL SPIRITS AND PRIDE!

AND ABOUT 50 YEARS LATER, MIYAKO DIED ON JULY 19TH, 754...

THIS COINCIDENCE SET THE SEAFOLK'S IMAGINATION ABLAZE!

The seafolk, ancient enough that the History of Wei describes them by saying, "They catch fish and pufferfish for sport, and they dive to catch them in all waters, shallow or deep", had a legend of the "Snake Princess".

This tale said that, much like Hinaga hime of Izumo and Toyotamahime of Kyushu, the daughters of the seafolk, when slighted, would transform into [illegible] exact vengeance on men.

On July 19th, the Long Haired Princess Miyako transformed into a serpent and pursued Ki no Maro on the Hidaka River. . This must be the original legend conceived of by the seafolk of Kuama.

and the long, long sorrow and malice was burned away with a moment of hellfire.

A span of fifty years was condensed into a single day...

AND SO, THE MAN AND THE WOMAN DIED ON THE SAME DAY.

EXAC-TLY!

J...JUST LIKE HOW KIYOHIME DROWNED HERSELF IN THE HIDAKA RIVER AFTER TRANS-FORMING INTO A SERPENT AND BURNING ANCHIN TO DEATH...!?

THE LEGEND OF THE LONG-HAIRED PRINCESS COULD NOT BE TOLD TOO OPENLY DUE TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE AUTHORITIES... SO I BELIEVE THAT THIS LATTER HALF WAS TOLD IN SECRET!

IT'S LIKE A CLONE OF THE ORIGINAL LEGEND!

THIS EVENTU-ALLY BECAME INDEPENDENT AND TOLD AS A BUDDHIST MORALITY TALE, WITH THE NAMES CHANGED... AS THE LEGEND OF ANCHIN AND KIYOHIME!

ירושלים

DULL INTO AN ALLEY...!

A...A TWIST-ER!?

!

THIS ROAD JUST FOLLOWS THE RIVER! THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN...!

WAAA
AAAA
AAAU
GH...

WHAM

AIIIE EEE EEE EEE EEE!

WH OO OA AA AA A...!?

PAAA AAAH!

N... NAGISA!? NAGISA!!

URRR KKKK KK...

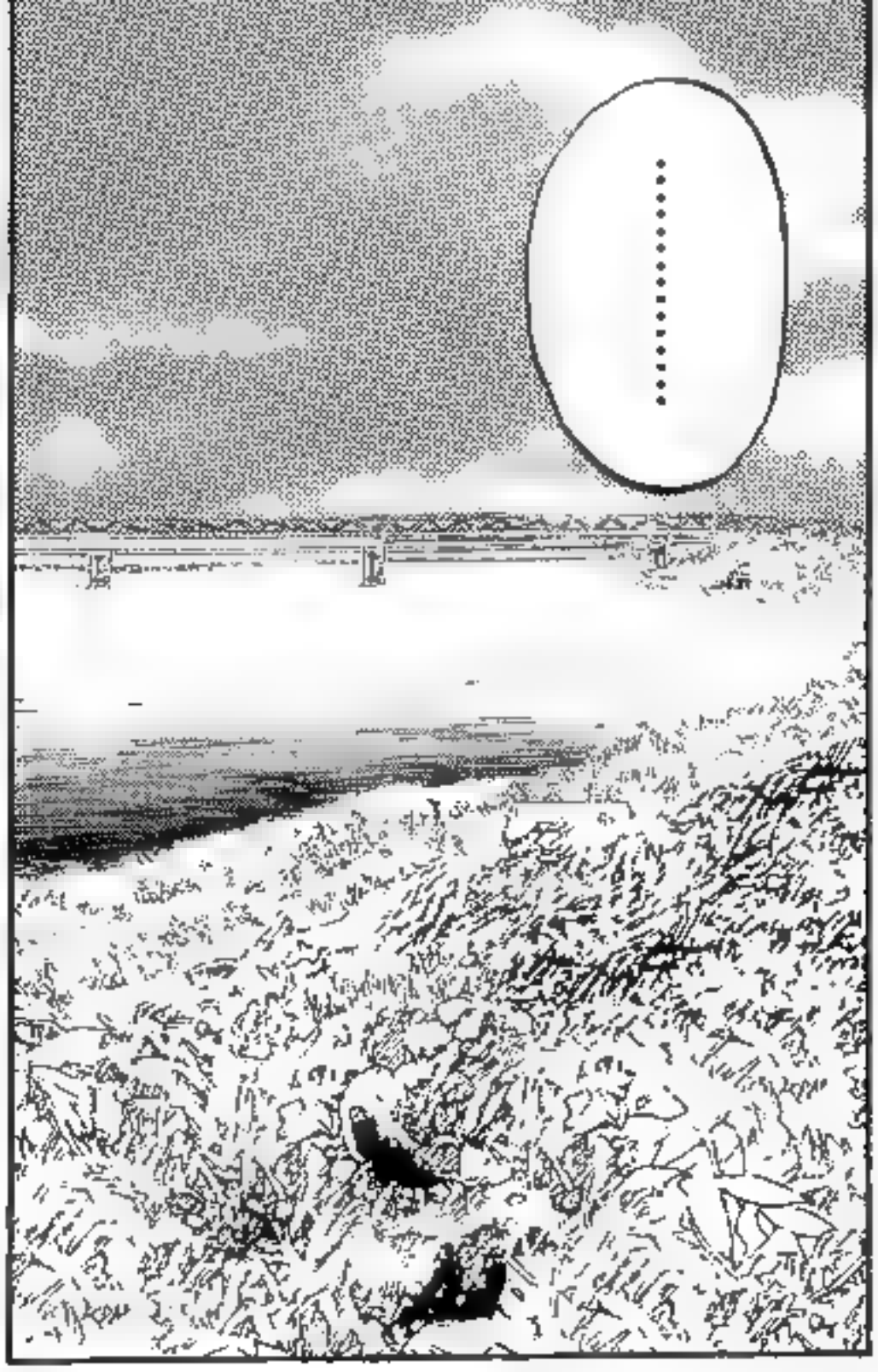
N...
NAGISA! YOU CAN MAKE IT OUT, AT LEAST!

NAGI-
SA!!

KCH
...

I KNOW THEY OCCUR WHEN THE ATMSPHERE IS DESTABILIZED BY A TYPHOON, BUT THAT MUST'VE BEEN ONE OF THE BIGGEST TWISTERS IN JAPAN...

...I GUESS SHE WENT BACK TO HER SHELL-DIVING JOB IN SHIMA...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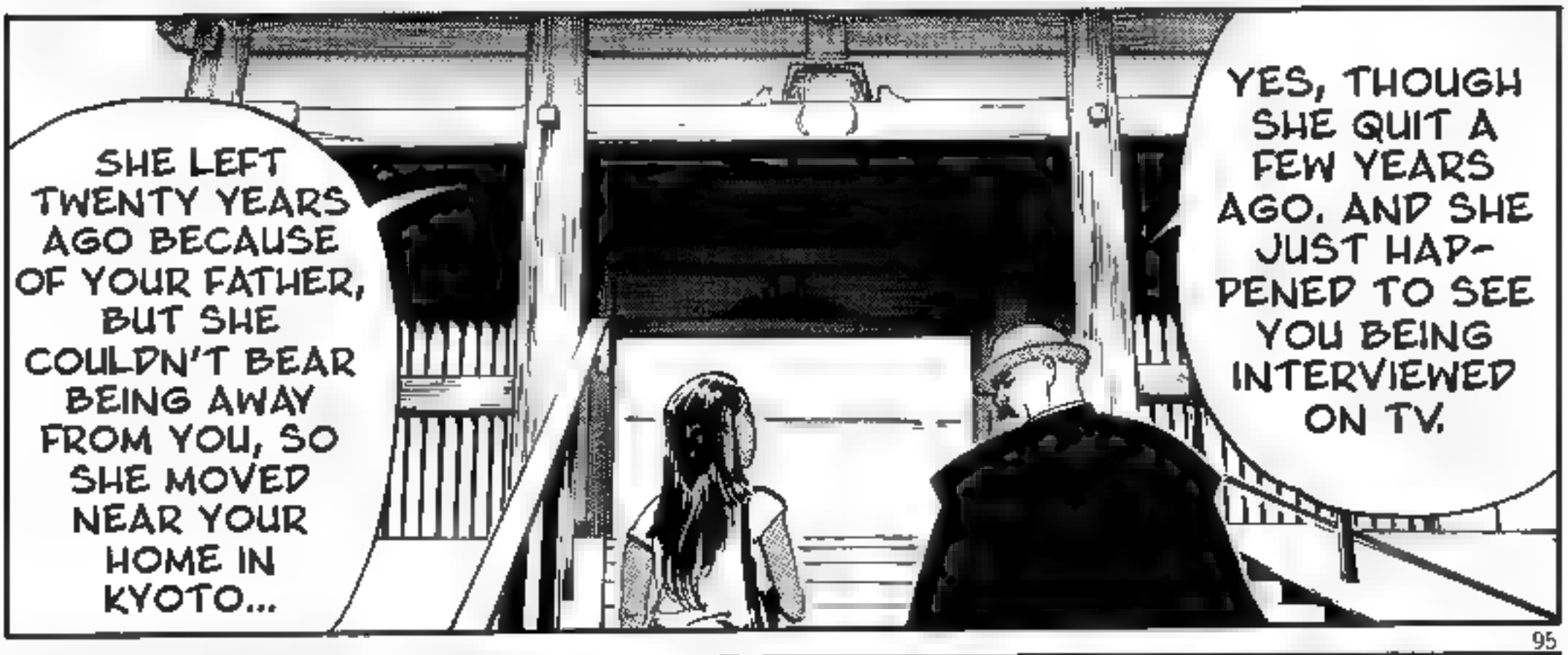
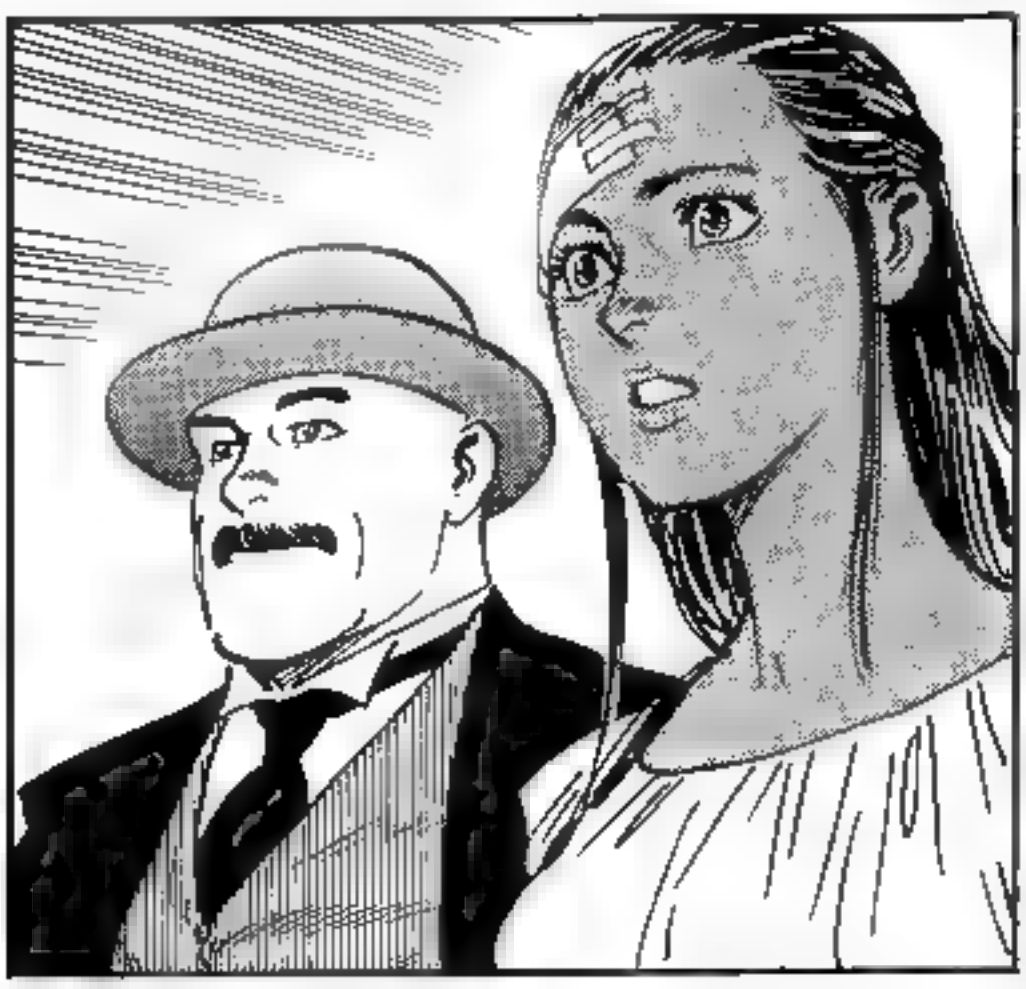

SHE LEFT TWENTY YEARS AGO BECAUSE OF YOUR FATHER, BUT SHE COULDN'T BEAR BEING AWAY FROM YOU, SO SHE MOVED NEAR YOUR HOME IN KYOTO...
YES, THOUGH SHE QUIT A FEW YEARS AGO. AND SHE JUST HAP-PENED TO SEE YOU BEING INTERVIEWED ON TV.



SHE SAW US STOPPING BY, BUT DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO TALK TO YOU, SO SHE FOL-LOWED US ALL THE WAY TO WAKAYAMA...

THAT'S MASA-GO...

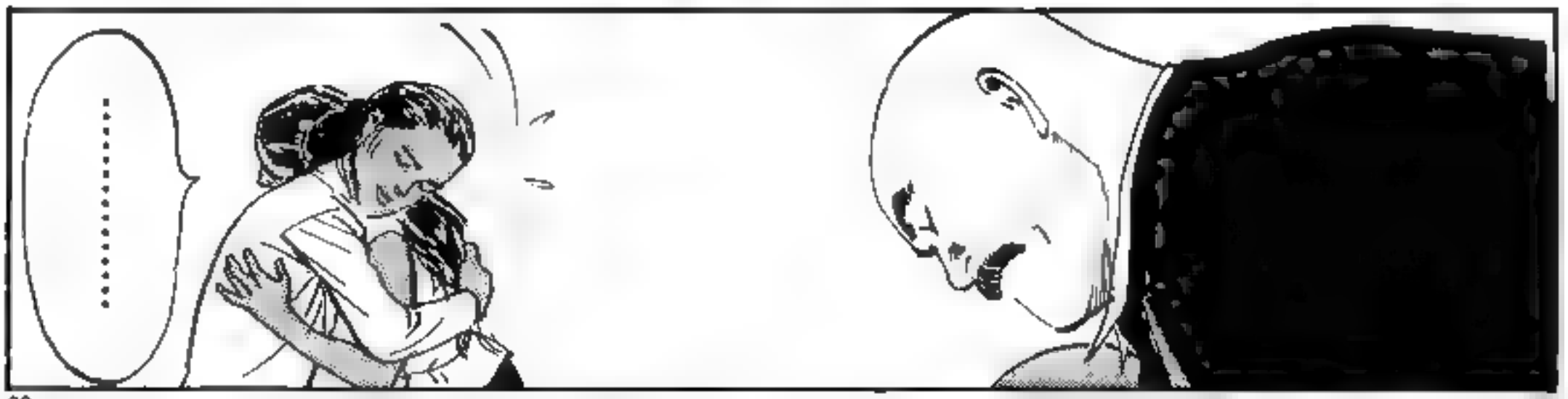
96

I DIDN'T DIE THANKS TO THE AIR TANKS IN THE CAR,

BUT SHE SAVED YOU, A PROFESSIONAL DIVER, AHEAD OF ME, WHO CAN'T SWIM TO SAVE HIS LIFE... HAHAHA!

NAGISA
...!!

THE TEMPLE OF MIYAKO'S... OR RATHER, OF WOMEN'S SPIRITS...
DOJO TEMPLE ...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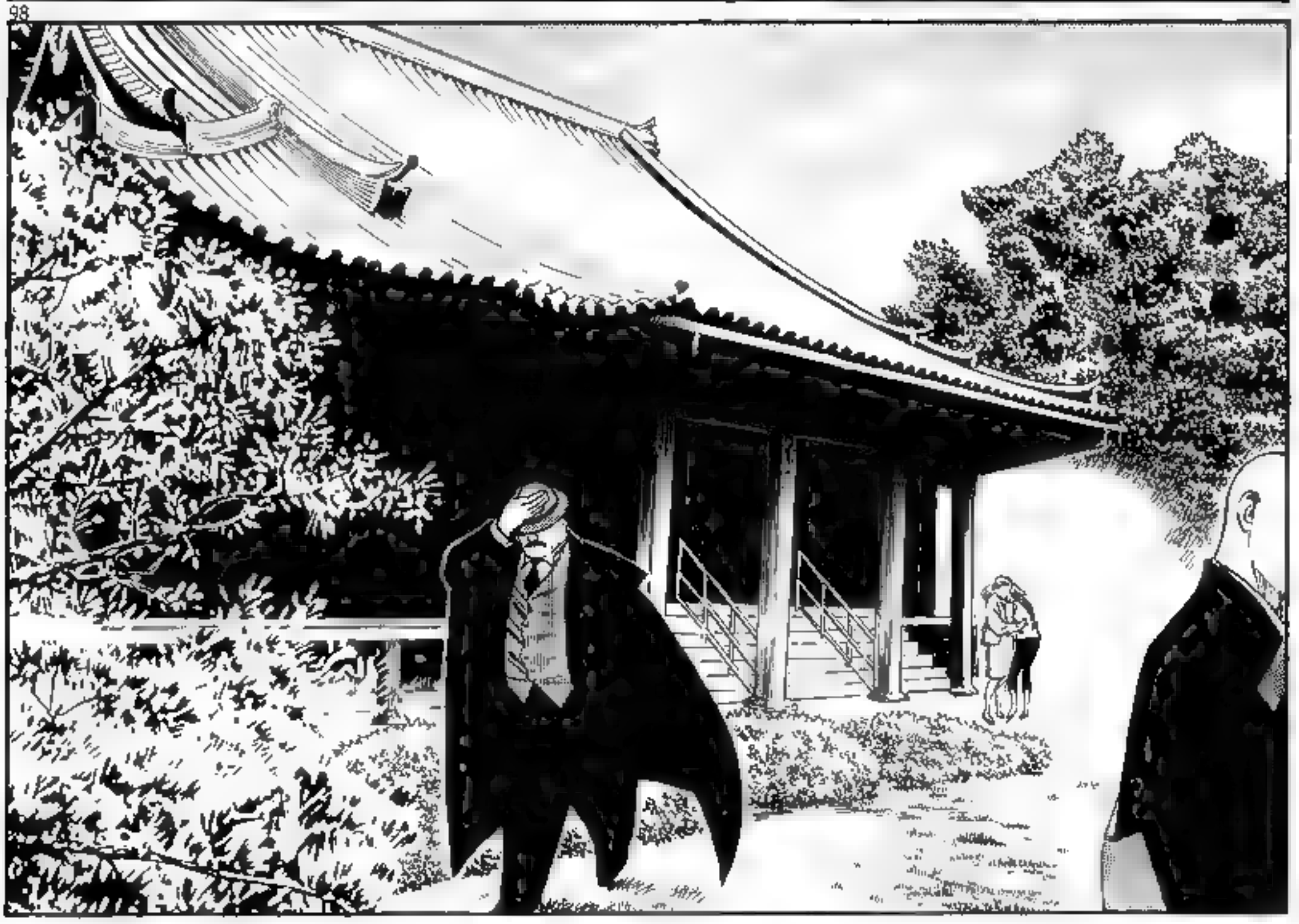


THE OAKE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MIYAMA

CHAPTER 14

PRESENTED BY

HOKUTO NO GUN

TRANSLATED BY

SYSTEMATICCHAOS

EDITING BY

HIGHTIDE AND KAZUHIKO

PROOFREADING BY

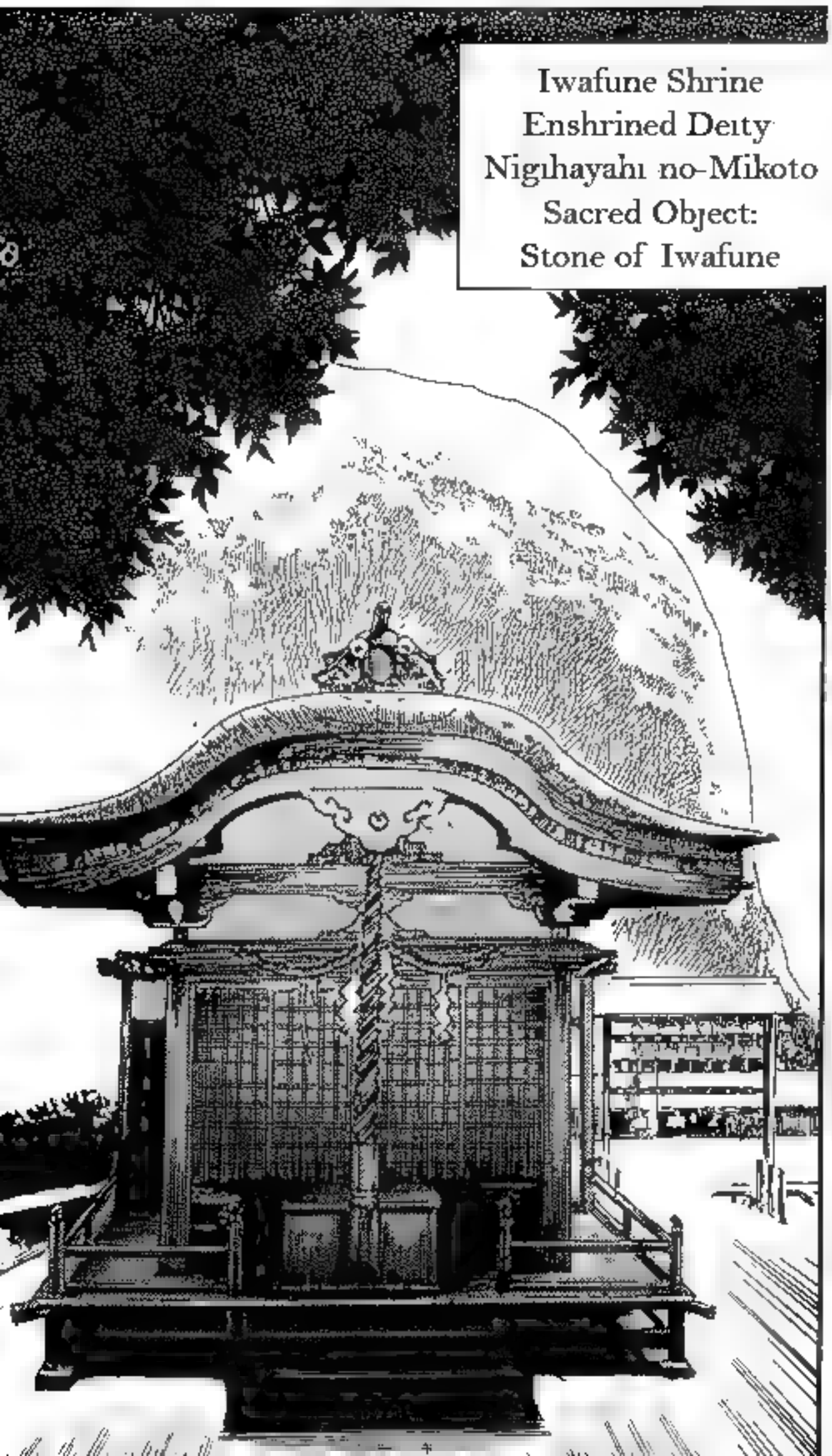
DESTORYERRING

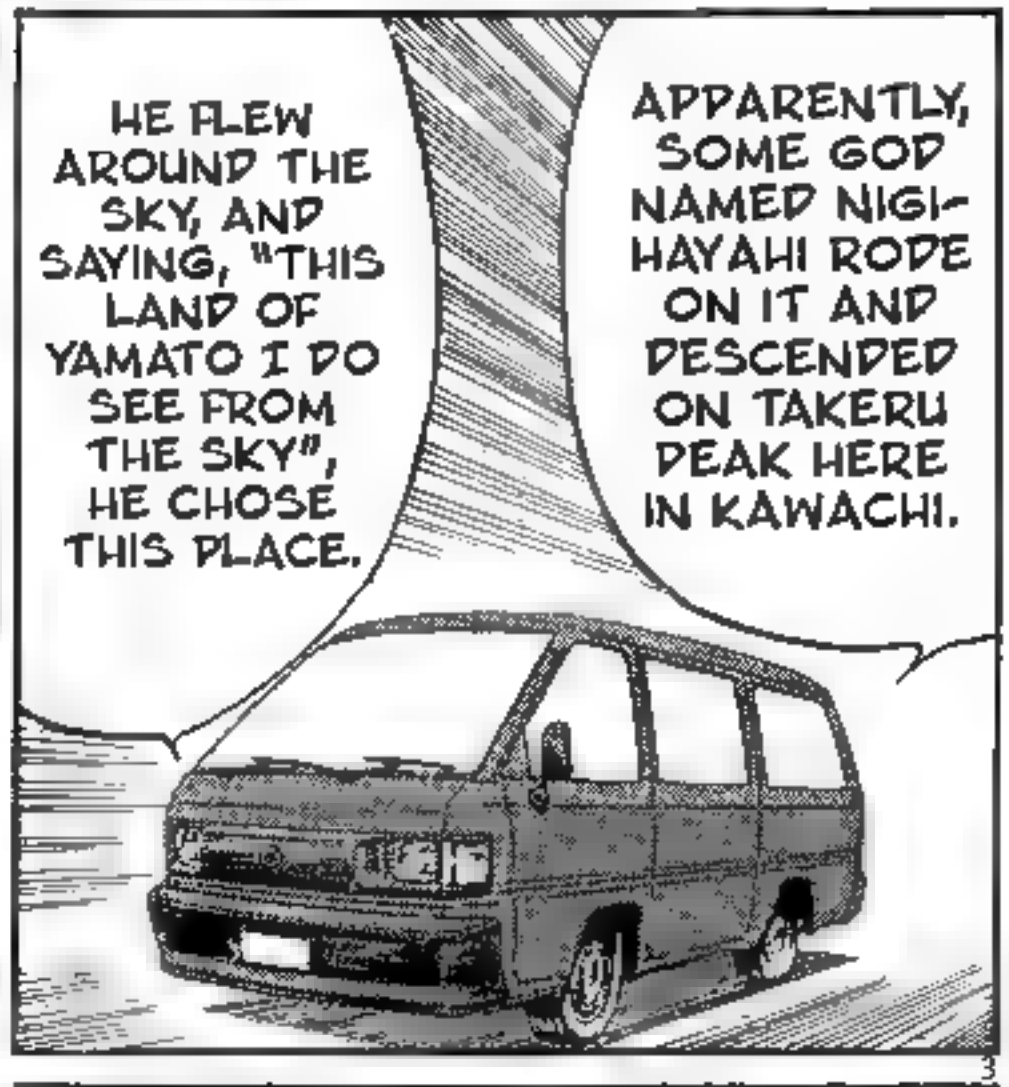
CHAPTER 15:
COMPOSITE RUINS

Osaka Metropolis
Katano City

AMA-NO-IWAFUNE ...?

SO, LIKE A UFO. HEHE ...
THEY SAID IT WAS A FLYING STONE SHIR


Iwafune Shrine
Enshrined Deity
Nigihayahi no-Mikoto
Sacred Object:
Stone of Iwafune


HE FLEW AROUND THE SKY, AND SAYING, "THIS LAND OF YAMATO I DO SEE FROM THE SKY", HE CHOSE THIS PLACE.
APPARENTLY, SOME GOD NAMED NIGI-HAYAHI RODE ON IT AND DESCENDED ON TAKERU PEAK HERE IN KAWACHI.

THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS IN THE NIHON SHOKI.

JR 河内磐船

かわちいわふね Kawachi-Iwafune

ほしだ Hoshida

つ Tsu

THERE'S A LEGEND THAT THE SEVEN STARS OF THE BIG DIPPER WERE BROUGHT DOWN HERE BY THE POWER OF THE GRAND MASTER KUKAI.

AND THOSE STARS ARE WORSHIPPED IN THE "FOREST OF STARS" AND "HOSHIDA MYOKEN TEMPLE".

THERE'S EVEN A RIVER CALLED THE "RIVER OF HEAVEN", SO THEY REALLY THOUGHT THIS OUT.

ほしだ

4

THEY'RE AN ANCIENT MILITANT GROUP SO INFLUENTIAL THEY'RE SAID TO BE THE ROOT OF MONONOFU, MEANING THE SAMURAI. THIS WAS BACK IN PRINCE SHOTOKU'S TIME.

MONO-NOBE CLAN?

OH, AND DON'T FORGET THAT THIS NIGIHAYAHI WAS THE ANCESTRAL GOD OF THE "MONONOBE CLAN".

I THINK THE MYTH OF THE AMA-NO-IWAFUNE REPRESENTS A FALLING METEOR.

AND THAT IT WAS "METEORIC IRON", THE CLOSEST TO A LUMP OF IRON A METEOR CAN GET...

THE MONONOBE CLAN'S SHADOWS WERE THERE WHEREVER THERE WAS IRON.

THEY WERE A GROUP THAT EXCELLED AT MAKING MASKS, IRON WEAPONS, AND IRON ARMOR.

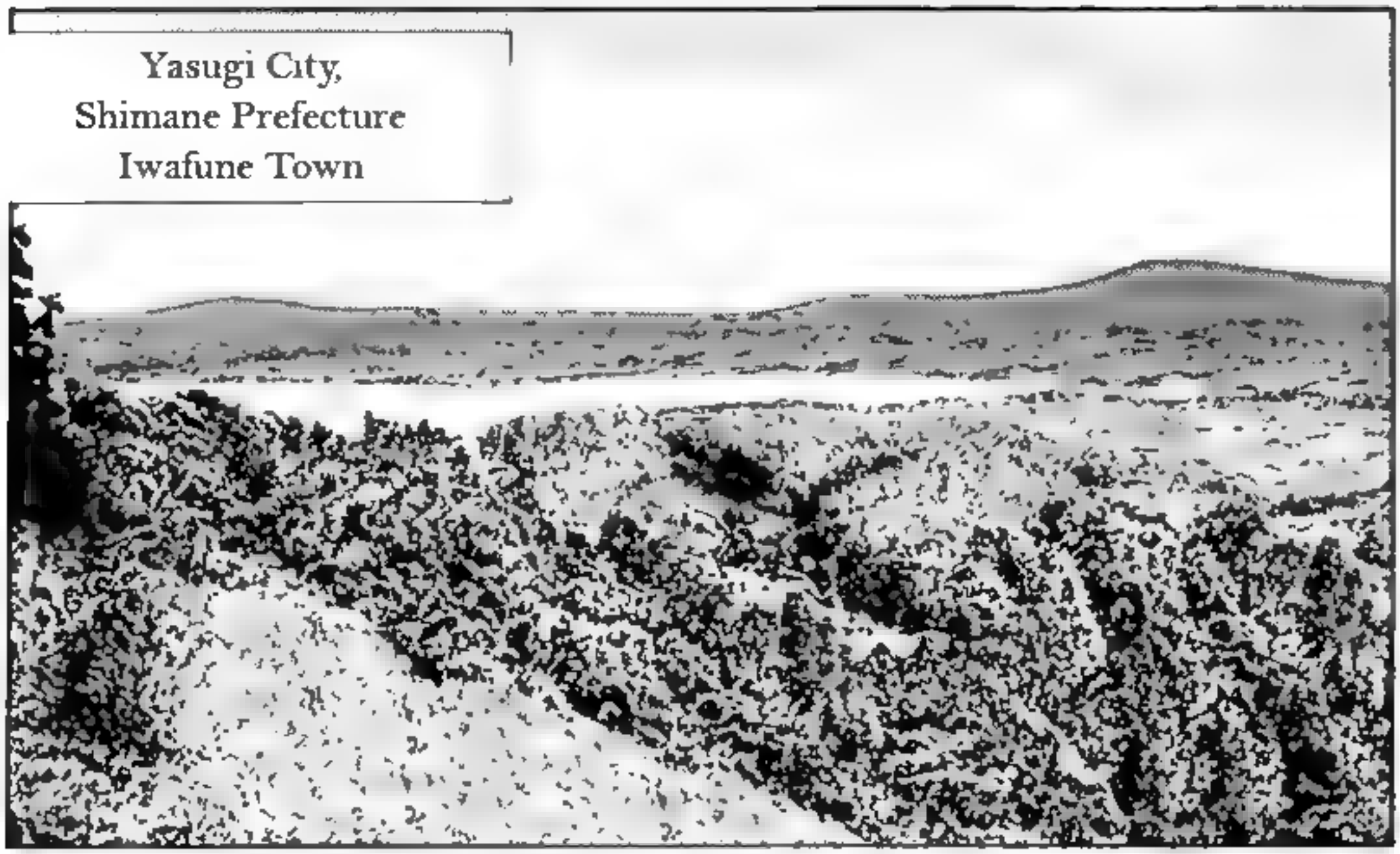
YOU DON'T HAVE TO UNDER-STAND JUST YET.

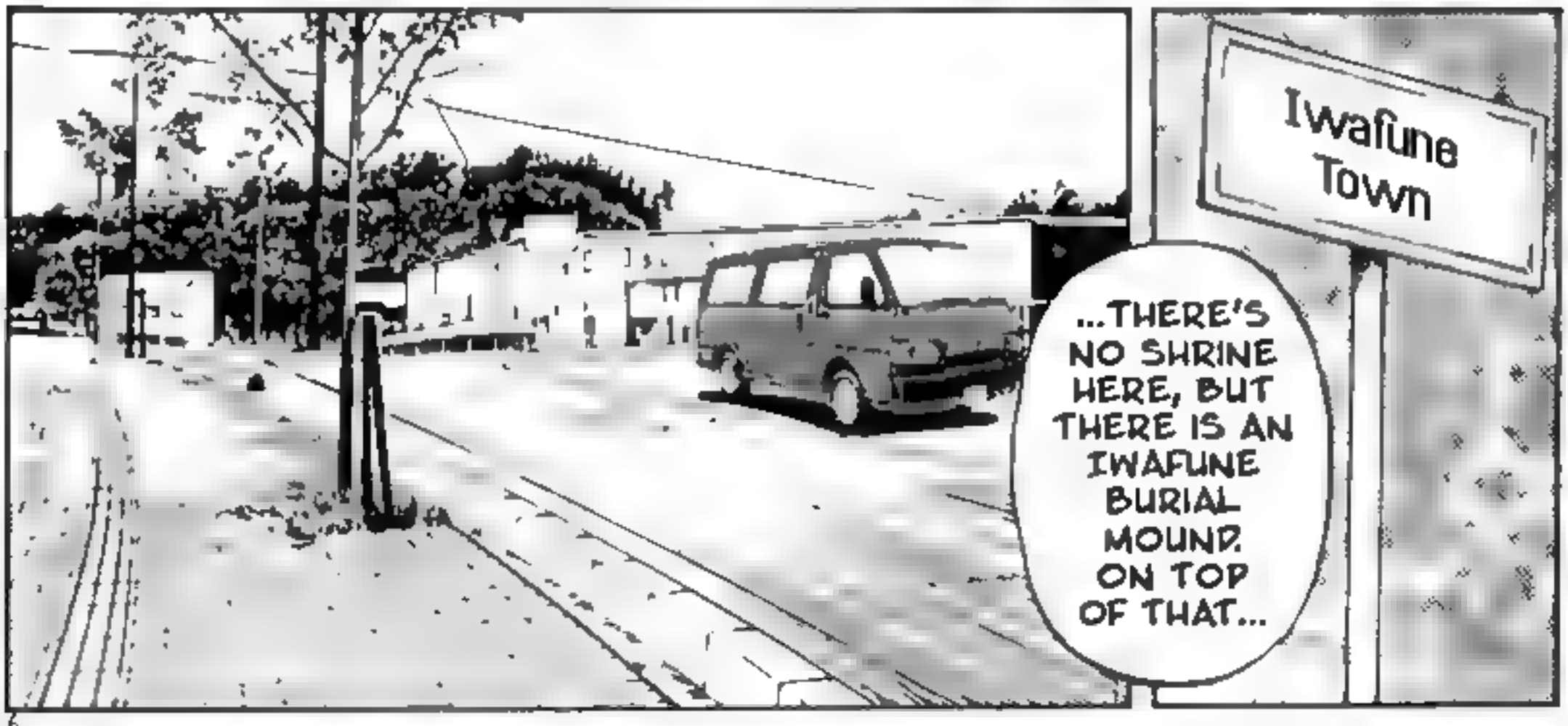
JUST REMEMBER THIS COMBI-NATION...

.....?

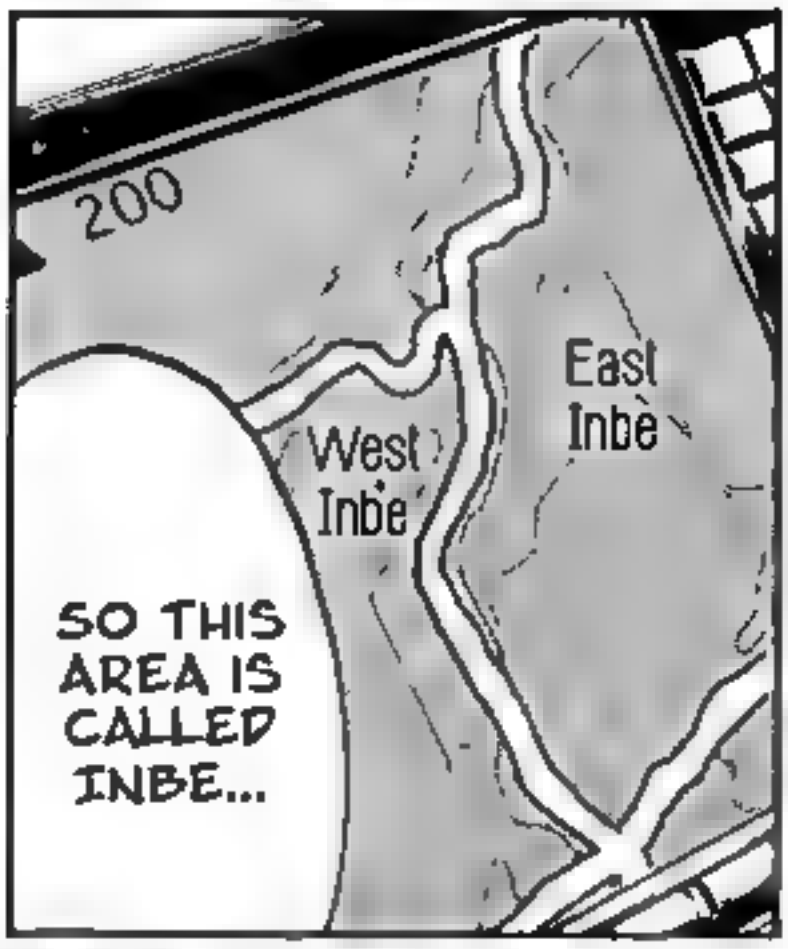
IWAFUNE, NIGIHAYAHI, MONONOBE, STARS...

Yasugi City,
Shimane Prefecture
Iwafune Town





IT'S KNOWN AS THE MOUNTAIN OF THE STAR GOD, AND THERE'S A LEGEND THAT A STAR GOD DESCENDED ON THAT MOUNTAIN.
THAT OVER THERE IS "MT. HOSHIKAMI".


200
West Inbe
East Inbe
SO THIS AREA IS CALLED INBE...

WE'RE GONNA PASS THROUGH MATSUE CITY, WHICH HAS A SHRINE WITH A LEGEND OF STARS CALLED "MATSU-ZAKI SHRINE", BUT THE SUN'S ABOUT TO SET SO LET'S MOVE ON.

INBE FLOWER PATH

INBE FLOWER PATH

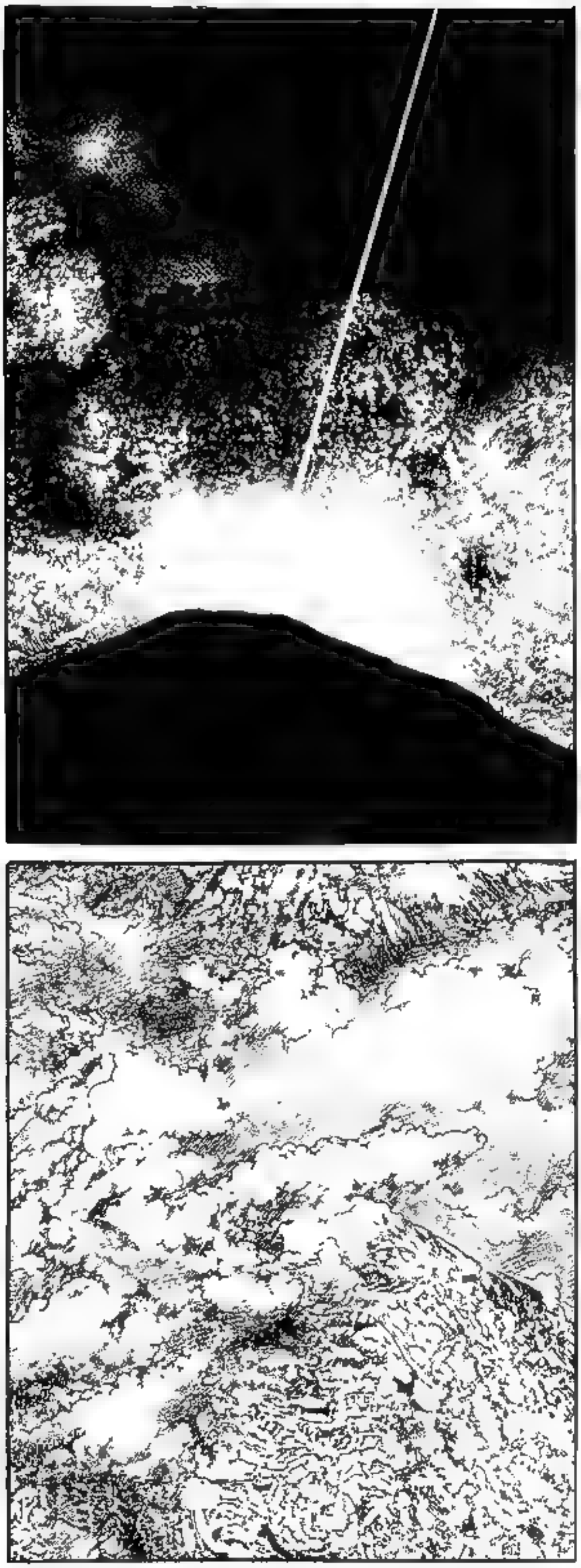
Oda City
Mononobe Shrine

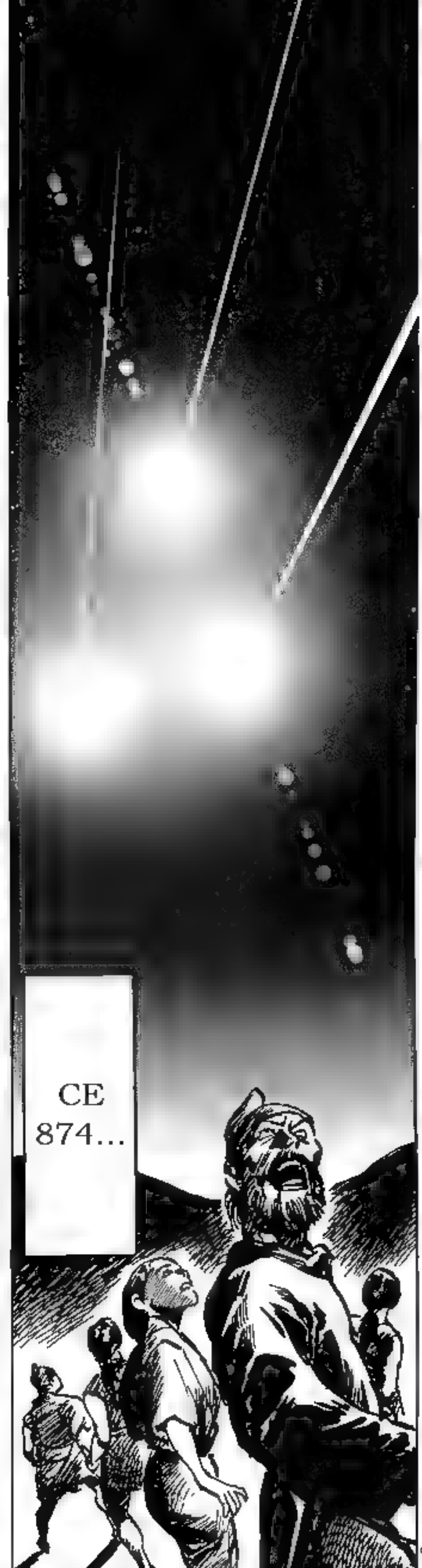
MONO-NOBE SHRINE ...

Gotsu City
Mt. Shimanohoshi

THERE ARE MONONOBE SHRINES ALL OVER THE NATION, BUT THIS IS A REPRESENTA-TIVE ONE. NATURALLY, NIGIHAYAHI IS INCLUDED AMONG THE ENSHRINED DEITIES...

THE IZUMO AREA IS FAMOUS FOR ITS IRON SANDS AND THE TATARA. I'LL BET THE MONONOBE CLAN HAD A BIG PRESENCE HERE...




CE
874...

THE MOUNTAIN THAT THE METEOR FELL ON WAS CALLED MT. SHIMANOHOSHI... THE METEOR WAS DUG OUT AND HAS BEEN STORED IN A TEMPLE ON THE MOUNTAIN TO THIS DAY.

AND THE ENSHRINED DEITY OF MATSUZAKI IS A STAR GOD CALLED "MIKAHAYAHI".

I DON'T KNOW ANY SPECIFIC MYTHS INVOLVING HIM, BUT THERE'S A THEORY SAYING THAT MIKAHAYAHI AND NIGIHAYAHI ARE THE SAME GOR

神明大石隕

SIGN GREAT GOD OF THE METEOR

MATSUZAKI SHRINE HAS A LEGEND JUST LIKE THAT, AND ITS SACRED OBJECT IS A METEOR.

WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT NIGIHAYAHI WAS A STAR GOD, TOO... A METEOR GOD!

NO, DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! THAT WON'T BE WORTH A DIME!

SO, WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO, KANO? YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF GOING FOR THE METEOR...

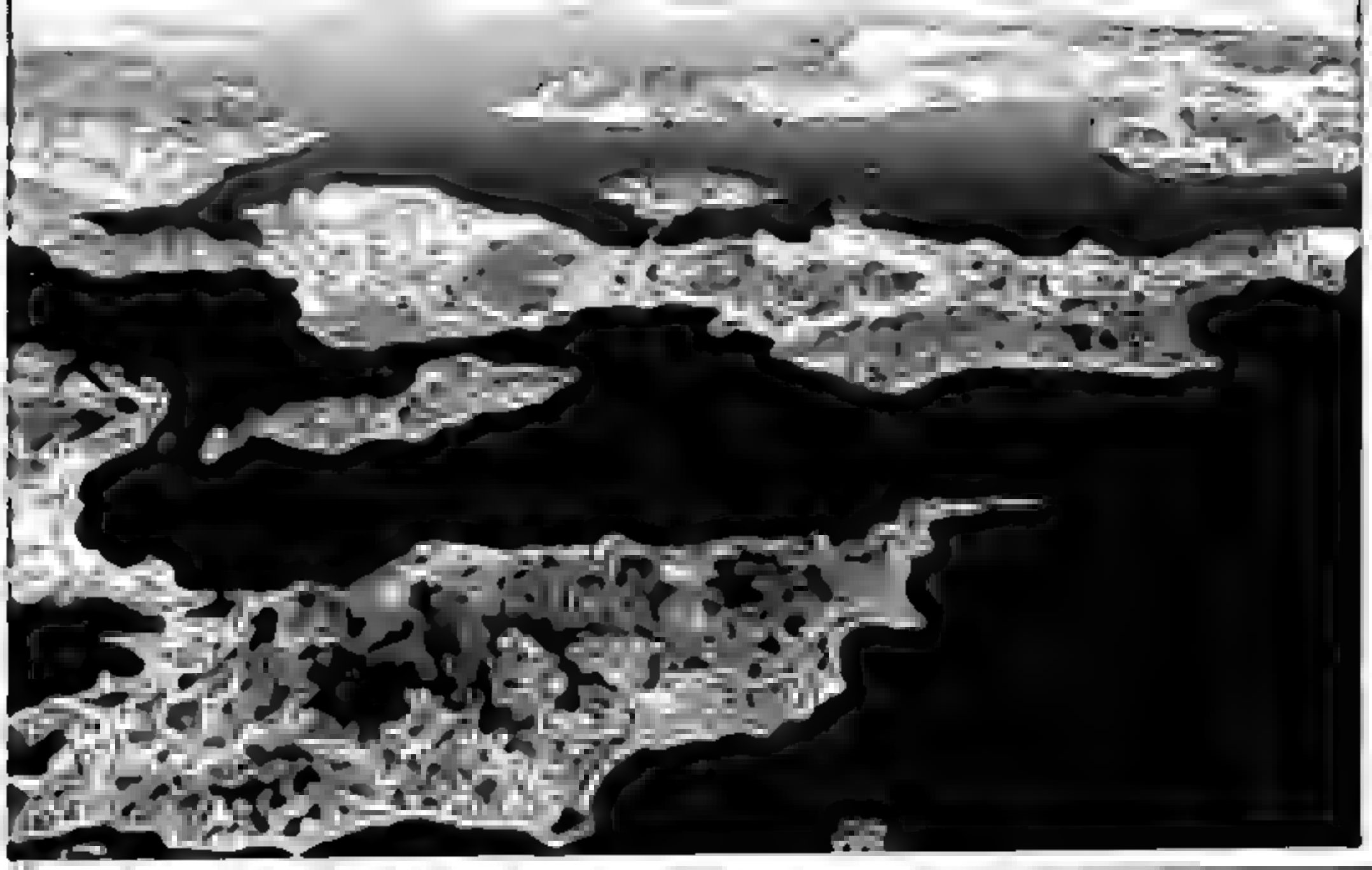
.....

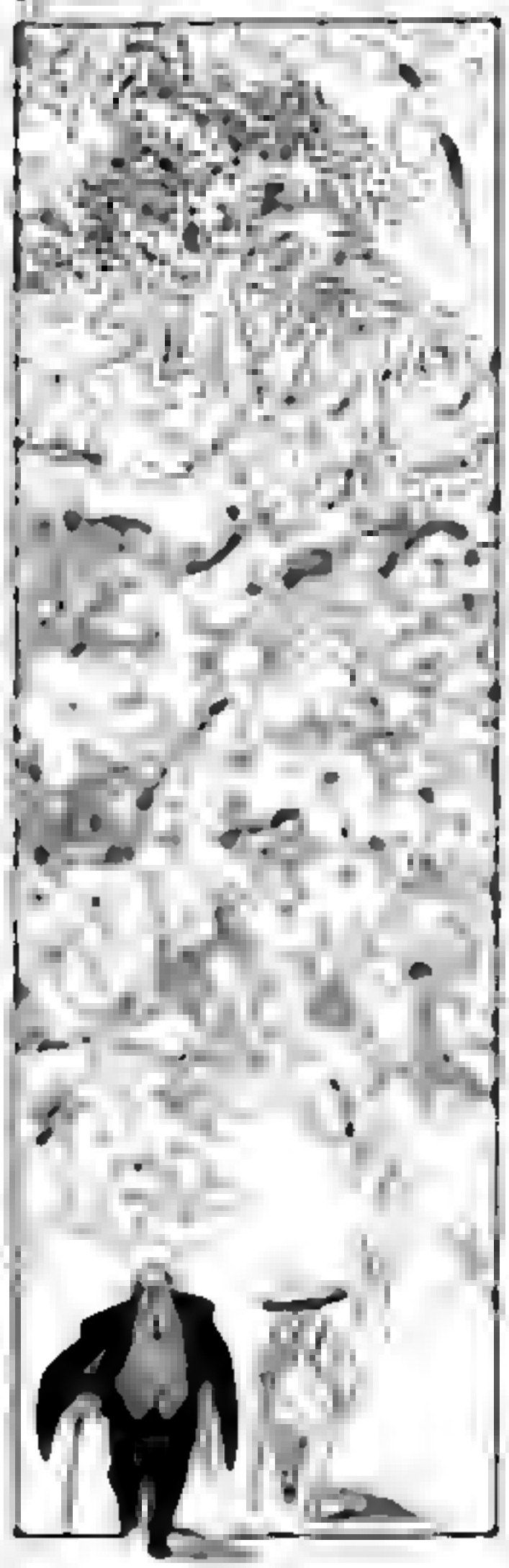
THIS HAS BEEN LIKE THE PREP LESSON. I'VE BEEN TAKING MY TIME EXPLAINING THIS SO EVEN YOU LUGHEADS WOULD UNDER-STAND.

LET'S GET READY TO MOVE OUT!

IWAFUNE, NIGIHAYAHI, MONONOBE, AND STARS... THERE'S MORE TO THIS COMBINATION THAN THAT.

THE REAL DEAL STARTS NOW...





Shikoku

IT WAS MY HUSBAND'S DEEP DESIRE. HE ALWAYS SAID IT HALF-JOKINGLY, BUT I BELIEVE HE WANTED US TO WALK TOGETHER.

...I SEE. SO YOU WANTED TO TAKE A PILGRIM-AGE AS A COUPLE...

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY SAD...

I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD AT LEAST COMPLETE IT MYSELF ...

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE HE PASSED AWAY.

TWO ON THE PILGRIMAGE... THIS MEANS THAT GRAND MASTER KOBO IS ACCOM-PANYING ME AS I TRAVEL TO THE GRAND MASTER'S EIGHTY-EIGHT SACRED GROUNDS.

SIGN: TWO ON THE PILGRIMAGE

I'M HEADING TO THE TWENTY-NINTH SACRED GROUND, KOKUBUN TEMPLE, WHICH IS FAMOUS FOR BEING THE PLACE THAT THE GRAND MASTER LEARNED THE SECRET ART OF THE "STAR SERVICE"...

SPEAKING OF THE GRAND MASTER...

THE SANUKI-NATIVE KUKAI ALSO HAD A MYSTERIOUS EXPERIENCE ON CAPE MUROTO, WHERE A GOLD STAR ENTERED HIM.

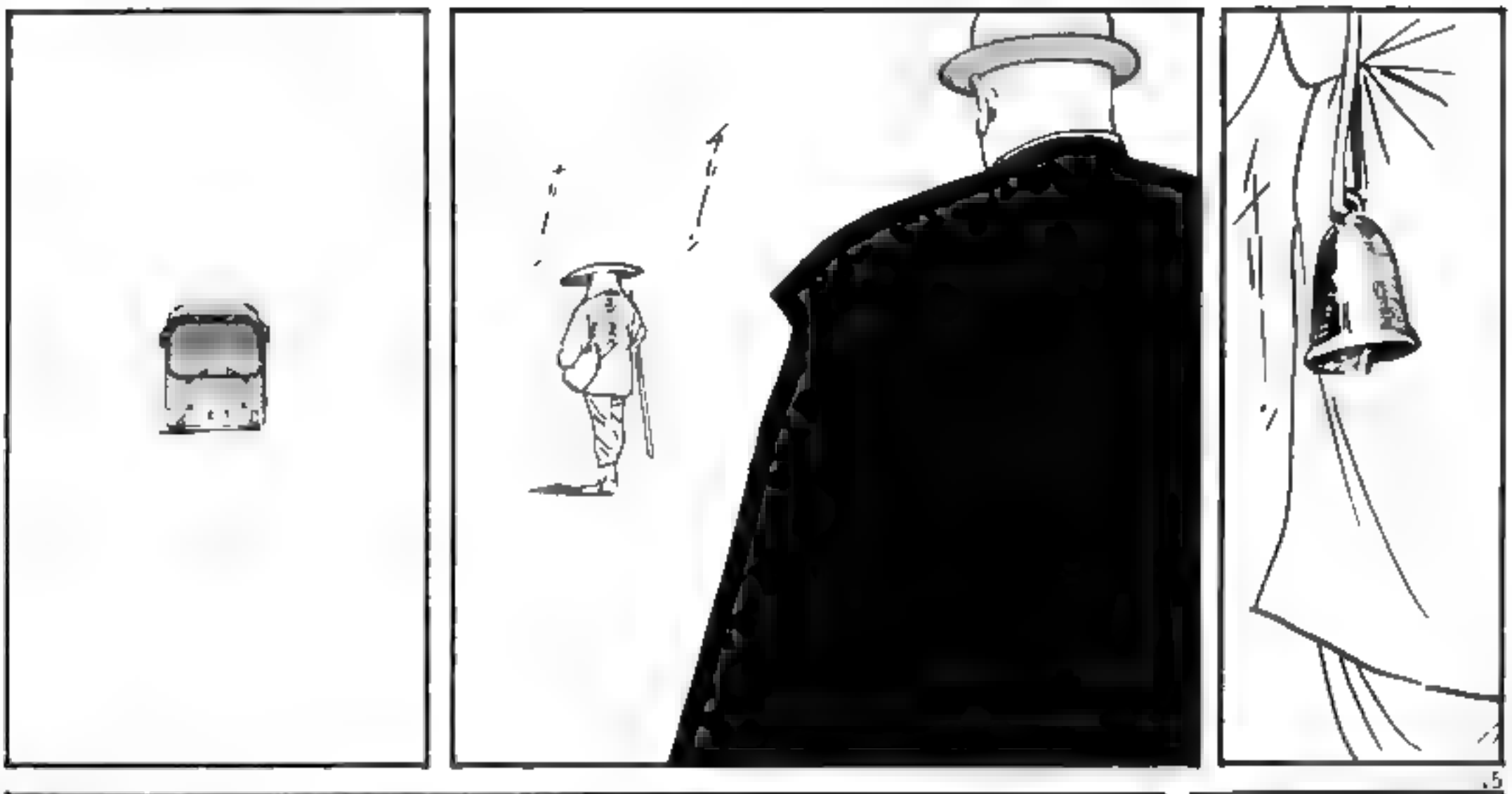
THE STAR SERVICE, A WORSHIP OF THE STAR GOD...

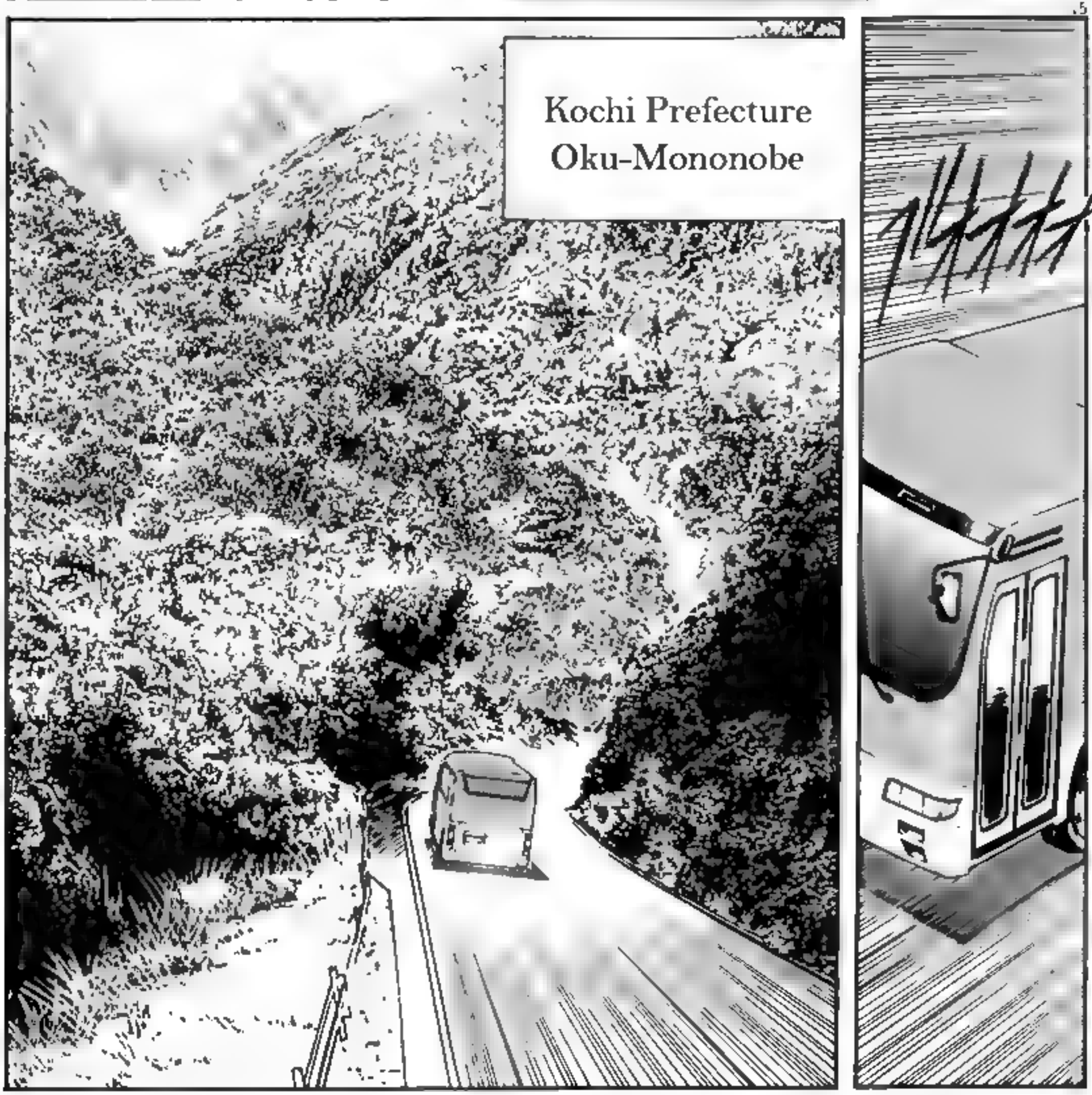
I THINK KOKUBUN TEMPLE IS JUST STRAIGHT AHEAD. AND DON'T MENTION IT, I WAS JUST WANDERING AROUND LOOKING FOR THE BUS STATION MYSELF.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR HELPING ME FIND MY WAY.

TAKE CARE...

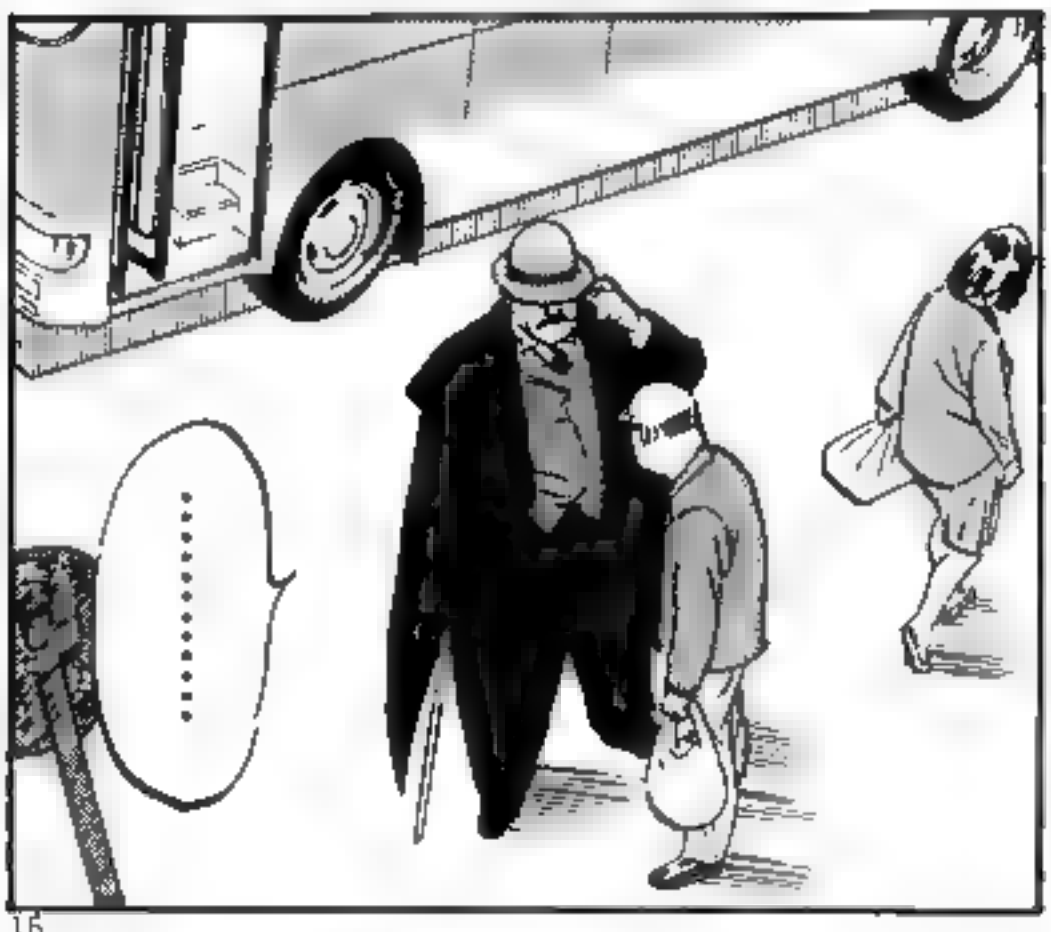
GOOD-BYE, THEN...



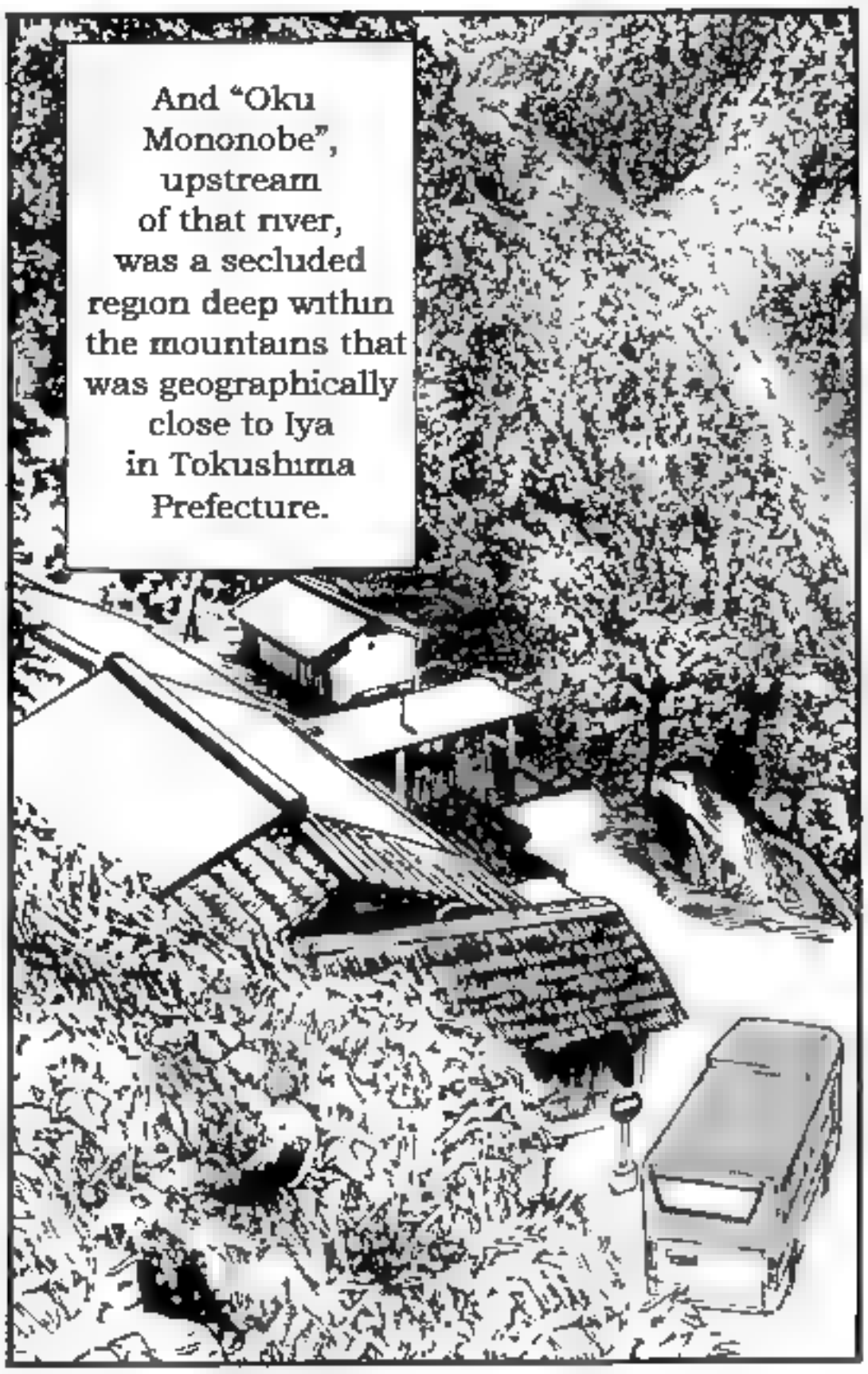

Kochi Prefecture
Oku-Mononobe

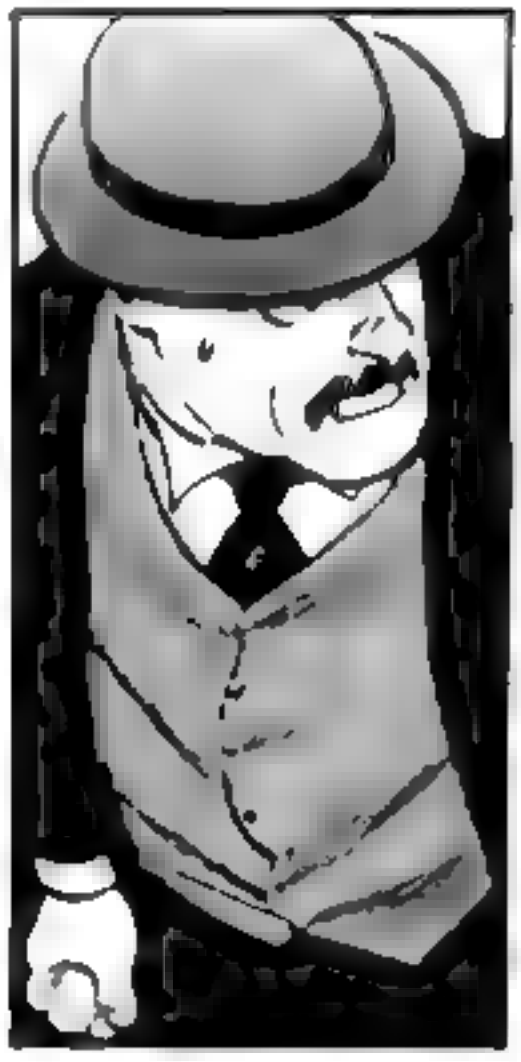
Aside from Monobe Village, which was built after the war, the people in the villages along the banks still bear the blood of the Tosa Mononobe Clan.

As the name suggests, the banks of the Mononobe River was home to an ancient band of the Mononobe Clan.



And "Oku Mononobe", upstream of that river, was a secluded region deep within the mountains that was geographically close to Iya in Tokushima Prefecture.





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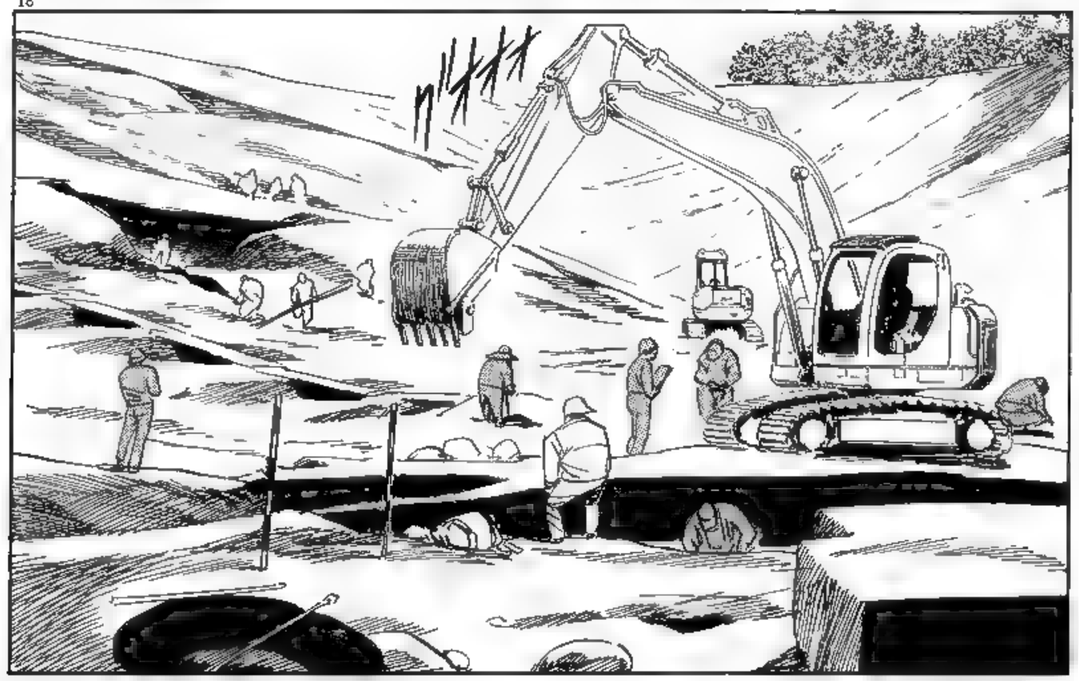

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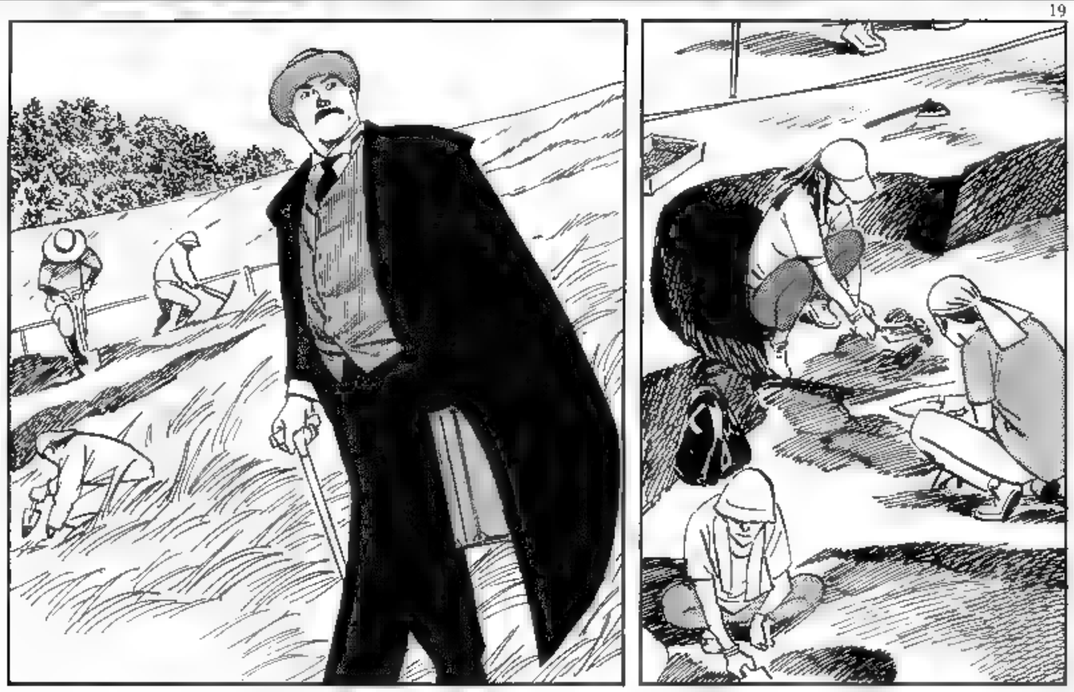


119

I SEE YOU'RE DOING WELL, SUETSUGU.

I'M GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT! IT'S BEEN A WHILE!

PRO-FES-SOR MUNA-KATA!

YEAH, I WAS REALLY HAPPY YOU CALLED.

I HEARD ABOUT THIS PLACE IN THE PAPER. I SAW THAT THE SHIKOKU HISTORICAL RESEARCH INSTI-TUTE WAS PARTICI-PATING IN THE EXCA-VATION, AND THAT REMINDED ME OF MY FORMER STUDENT.

...AT FIRST, THEY JUST FOUND THE RUINS TO A SMALL SETTLEMENT BY COINCI-DENCE.

THEY ASKED ME TO HELP BECAUSE THEY'RE SHORT-STAFFED, SO HERE I AM ON AN ARCHAEOLOGI-CAL STUDY OUT-SIDE MY FIELD... JUST AS A DIGGER, THOUGH. HAHAHA!

THIS AREA HAS A LOT OF LEGENDS OF FLEEING SOLDIERS, AND IYA IS JUST OVER THE PREFECTURAL BORDERS, SO SOME PEOPLE HERE ARE SAYING THAT THIS MAY'VE BEEN A HIDDEN VILLAGE OF THE TAIRA CLAN.

WE ESTIMATE THAT IT DATES BACK TO SOMETIME BETWEEN THE KAMAKURA PERIOD IN THE 12TH CENTURY AND THE WARRING STATES PERIOD IN THE 16TH CENTURY.

WE ALSO FOUND SIGNS THAT THERE WAS A LAKE AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS MORTAR-SHAPED BASIN.

THERE'S A LOCAL LEGEND THAT KUKAI CREATED A LAKE HERE OVERNIGHT IN THE 9TH CENTURY.

BUT WHILE WE WERE STUDYING IT ALL, WE FOUND AN OLDER LAYER UNDERNEATH THE SETTLEMENT RUINS.

KUKAI AGAIN...

THERE ARE SIMILAR LEGENDS ALL OVER JAPAN. AT LEAST IT'S A HISTORICAL FACT THAT HE BUILT MANNO LAKE IN HIS HOMETOWN OF SANUKI...

IT PROBABLY DATES BACK TO THE 7TH CENTURY... MAYBE EVEN OLDER. WE'RE WONDERING IF IT MIGHT BE THE RUINS OF A SHRINE.

THE SURVIVING LUMBER HAS CARBONIZED CONSIDERABLY, SO IT MAY HAVE BURNED DOWN IN A FIRE.

IT'S QUITE RARE FOR SUCH AN ANCIENT SHRINE TO BE EXCAVATED IN A RURAL AREA...

SO THESE ARE "COMPOSITE RUINS", WHERE RUINS OF DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS ARE SUPERIMPOSED ON THE SAME LOCATION.

WE'RE FROM MORIYA VILLAGE DOWNSTREAM.

WE HEARD YOU'VE FOUND AN ANCIENT SHRINE...

IT MIGHT JUST BE "ISHIFUNE SHRINE", WHERE OUR ANCESTORS, THE TOSA MONONOBE, WORSHIPPED THE GOD NIGIHAYAHI.

24

ISHIFUNE SHRINE ...?

PROFES-
SOR MU-
NAKATA!

...IMIBE
!?

YOU'RE FROM
INNO VILLAGE!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE!?
"HOSHI-NO-TAIRA"
IS THE
MONONOBE'S
SACRED GROUND!

ARE
YOU FROM
THE AWA
INBE
TRIBE,
TOO!?
IF YOU
ARE, GET
OUT OF
HERE!

COME
AGAIN
!?

I HEARD ABOUT THE RUINS OF "HOSHI-NO-TAIRA", AND HAD THESE GENTLE-MEN SHOW ME THE WAY.

I'M ONLY STAYING IN INBE VILLAGE ACROSS THE MOUNTAIN FOR A SUMMIT OF THE REP-RESENTA-TIVES OF THE INBE ACROSS THE NATION.

I AM A DESCENDANT OF THE ANCIENT INBE CLAN, BUT I'M FROM THE "IZUMO INBE" OF SHIMANE AND MATSUE.

YEAH. I CAN GUARANTEE HER IDENTITY. I SUPPOSE I HAVE TO, SINCE I KNOW HER...

ALRIGHT, KANA. WE'LL COME BACK TO PICK YOU UP LATER.

THANK YOU.

YOUR NAME WAS SUETSUGU, WASN'T IT? DID YOU FIND ANYTHING FROM THE RUINS OF "ISHIFUNE SHRINE"?

HUH? OH...

MORIYA VILLAGE IN KOCHI AND INNO VILLAGE IN TOKUSHIMA ARE KNOWN FOR BEING ON ILL TERMS. THEY'VE BEEN QUARRELLING WITH EACH OTHER ACROSS THE PREFECTURAL BORDER SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.

SINCE ANCIENT TIMES ...?

Ishifune Shrine (Ama no-Oshi Howake Shrine)
Kagami Town, Konan City, Kochi Prefecture

ISHI-FUNE SHRINE ?

IT'S POSSIBLE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THERE IS A REAL ISHIFUNE SHRINE, WHICH HOUSES THE PATRON GOD OF THE TOSA MONONOBE CLAN.

ISHIFUNE SHRINE TELLS OF THE MYTH IN WHICH THE MONONOBE CLAN'S ANCESTRAL GOD "NIGIHAYAHI" DESCENDED TO EARTH ON THE AMA-NO-IWAFUNE. I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF ONE EXISTED IN OKU-MONONOBE.

OHHHH! IT'S NIGI-HAYAHI'S DIVINE OBJECT!

29

IRON ...!

WE FOUND THEM IN AN EARTHEN-WARE VESSEL BURIED UN-DERNEATH THE RUINS.

THEY'RE ATTRACTED TO MAGNETS, SO THEY SEEM TO BE IRON FRAGMENTS.

WE FOUND 'EM, KARINO ...

THE INBE BURNED DOWN OUR ISHIFUNE SHRINE AND MADE HOSHI-NO-TAIRA A BATTLEFIELD!

N...NO! THIS IS AN AR-TISTIC ARTI-FACT! IT NEEDS TO BE STUDIED!

BUT THAT BELON-GED TO OUR ANCES-TORS!

WE SWEAR TO GET OUR SHRINE AND THE SACRED OBJECT BACK!!

T...THE TRUTH IS, WE'VE FOUND A NUMBER OF HUMAN BONES NEAR THE SETTLEMENT...

THEY'RE FINALLY GONE...

THIS SEEMS TO BE THE REMAINS OF A SKIRMISH WITH THE CHOSOKABE REMNANTS WHEN YAMANOUCHI KAZUTOYO ENTERED TOSA AS ITS LORD IN THE EARLY EDO PERIOD...

BUT THE PROBLEM IS, WHAT ARE THE BONES IN THE LAYER BELOW IT...?

BETWEEN MORIYA VILLAGE AND INNO VILLAGE...

THEY SEEM TO DATE BACK TO THE SAME PERIOD AS THE RUINS OF ISHIFUNE SHRINE. THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE SOLDIERS, SO PERHAPS THEY'RE NEIGHBORING VILLAGERS, BUT THEY LOOK LIKE THEY DIED IN A STRUGGLE.

YES.

YOU SAID THAT HOSHI-NO-TAIRA... THIS MORTAR-SHAPED BASIN WAS ONCE A LAKE?

IT SEEMS THAT EVERYTHING FROM THE SHRINE RUINS TO THOSE BONES WAS ONCE UNDERWATER. TAKE A LOOK AT THAT.

IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN PLACED THERE ARTIFICIALLY.

THERE WAS A MEGALITH HALF-BURIED AT THE BOTTOM!

I THINK THAT THIS MEGALITH TEMPORARILY SERVED AS A "PLUG" THAT PREVENTED THE WATER FROM DRAINING.

THE GROUND BENEATH IT IS RATHER BRITTLE AND HAS A NUMBER OF FISSURES IN IT. SO ALL THE RAINWATER WOULD DRAIN UNDERGROUND. BUT...

I SEE. KUKAI MAY HAVE MADE A LAKE BY THAT METHOD, JUST LIKE THE LEGENDS SAY.

WE'RE WITHDRAWING OUR HEAVY MACHINERY AND STARTING MANUAL LABOR ON IT TOMORROW. WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL, BECAUSE THE GROUND IS SO UNSTABLE...

HAVE YOU EXCAVATED UNDERNEATH IT?

I'VE SEEN TERRAIN VERY SIMILAR TO THIS... THAT WAS IN SHIMANE PREFECTURE, THOUGH.

HMM ...!

COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE'S A TOWN CALLED "IWAFUNE" THERE, TOO, AS WELL AS A MONONOBE SHRINE TO WORSHIP NIGIHAYAHI, A MT. HOSHIGAMI, AND A MT. SHIMANOHOSHI...

SHIMANE?

THE ANCIENT INBE CLAN WERE RITUAL SPECIALISTS, AND THEY CULTIVATED "HEMP" NATION-WIDE TO WEAVE THE SACRED GARMENTS.

SO YOU'RE IMIBE KANA! I'VE READ ALL YOUR BOOKS! IT'S A REAL HONOR!

36

Inbe Shrine, Tokushima City

THEY WERE IN SHIKOKU, SAN'IN, AND BOSO... BUT THE SHIKOKU ONES WERE THE MOST FAMOUS, AND TOKUSHIMA IN AWA AND KAGAWA IN SANUKI WERE INBE STRONG-HOLDS...

Takamatsu City
Kagawa Prefecture
Mt. Osa
Sanuki Inbe Clan
Mt. Oasa
Tokushima City
Inbe Shrine
Awa Inbe Clan
Tokushima Prefecture
Kochi Prefecture
Oku Mononobe
Mononobe River
Tosa Mononobe Clan
Nangoku City

THE MOUNTAINS CALLED MT. OASA IN TOKUSHIMA AND SHIMANE PREFECTURES ARE SO CALLED BECAUSE THE INBE CLAN MONOPOLISTICALLY MADE HEMP THERE.

THE MONONOBE CLAN SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE NATION SEEKING THE RESOURCE OF "IRON" WITH WHICH TO MAKE WEAPONS, BUT THE INBE SOUGHT "HEMP"...

AND FROM THE SAEKI CLAN CAME...

THAT AREA JUST ABOUT HAPPENED TO OVERLAP WITH THE DOMAIN OF A POWERFUL TRIBE CALLED THE SAEKI CLAN.

THERE'S A "MT. OSA" IN KAGAWA PREFECTURE, TOO. IT'S NEAR THE FAMOUS LAKE MANNO, AND THAT'S LIKELY WHERE THE SANUKI INBE'S HEADQUARTERS WERE.

KUKAI !?

YOU MEAN THE GRAND MASTER KOBO WAS FROM AN INBE TRIBE...!?

OH, YOU HAVE TO PEEL IT...

PROFESSOR MUNAKATA, WOULD YOU LIKE A KOCHI TANGERINE?

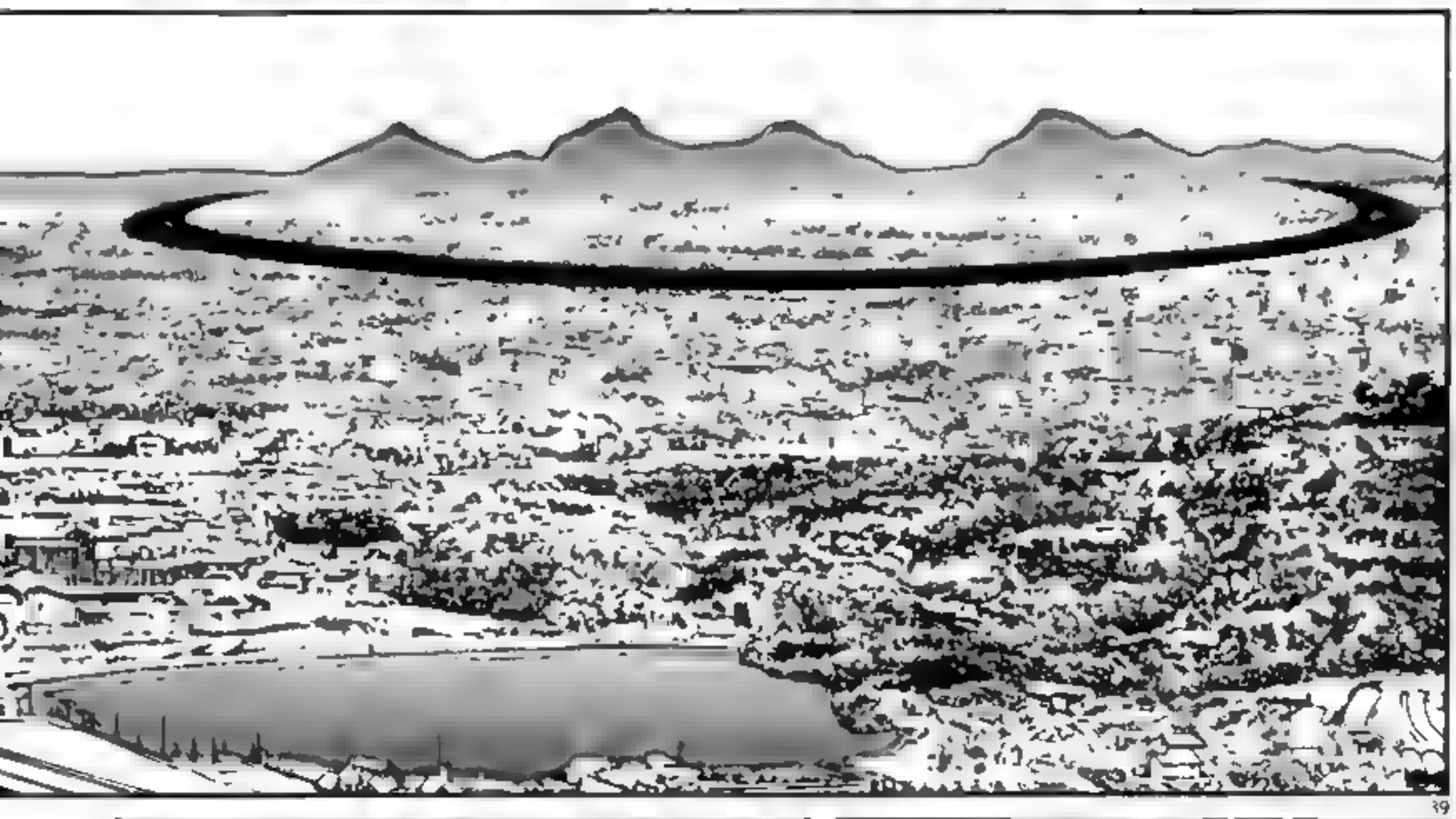
THERE'S NO EVIDENCE, BUT I THINK THE POSSI-BILITY IS HIGH.

SPEAKING OF KUKAI ...

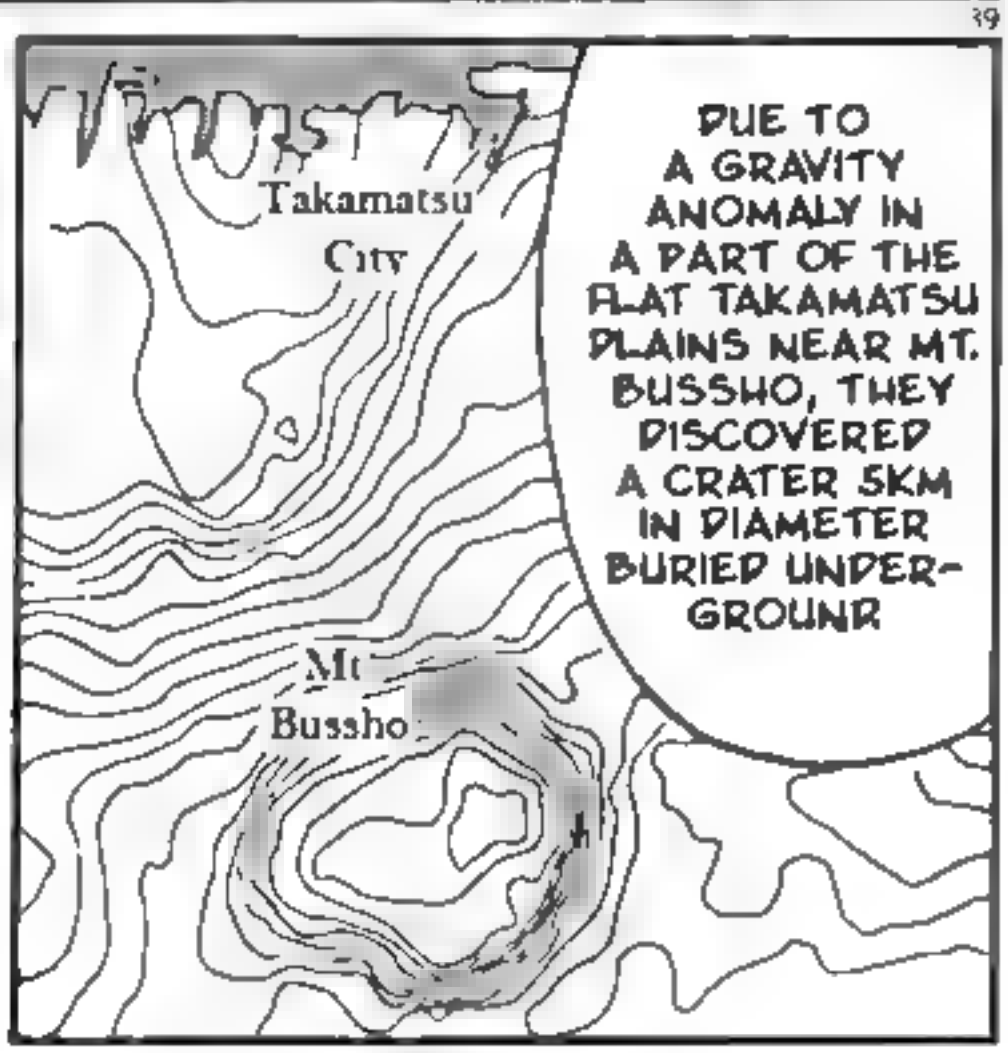
IT'S... A LITTLE SEEDY.

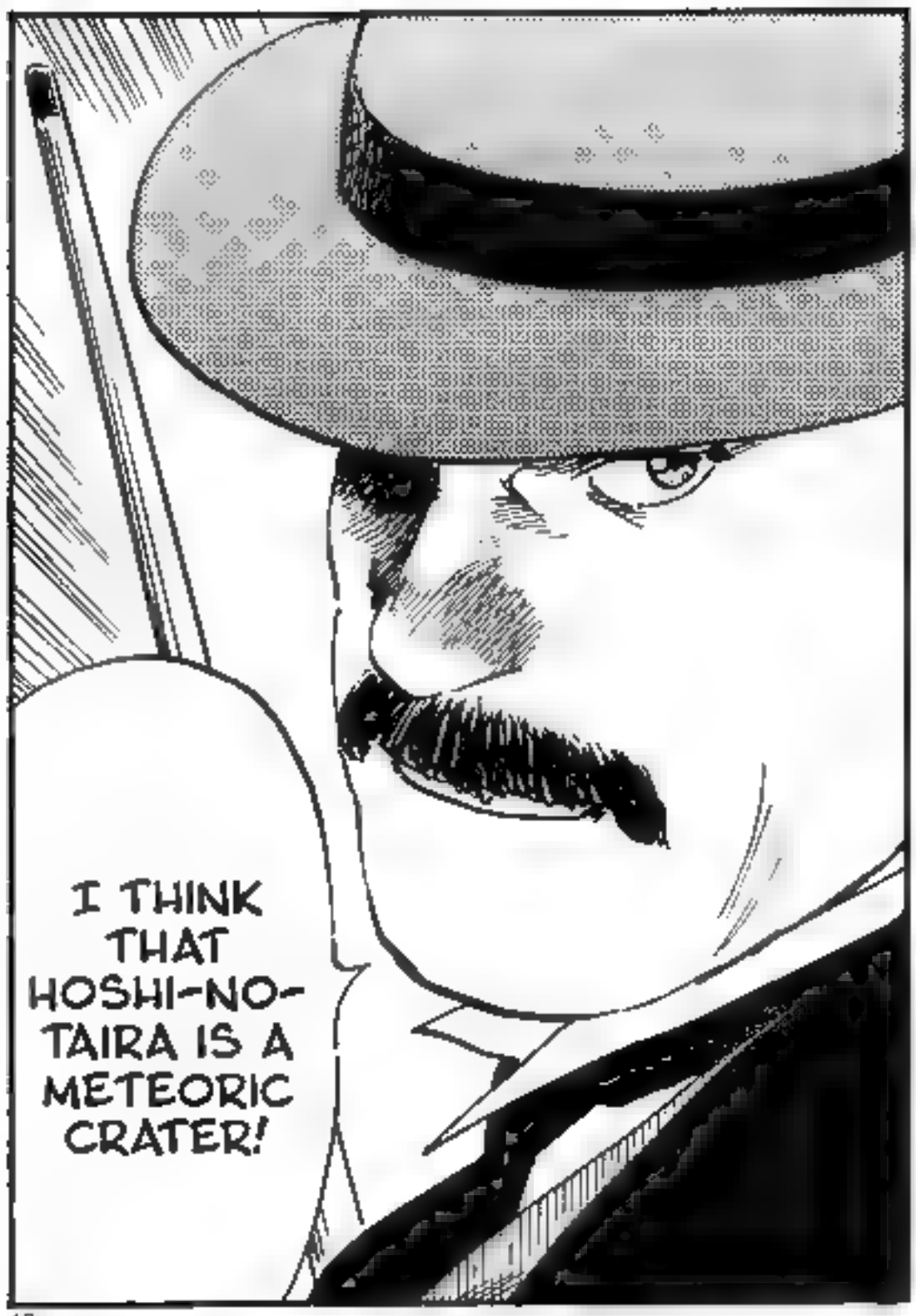
TAKA-
MATSU
CRATER
!?

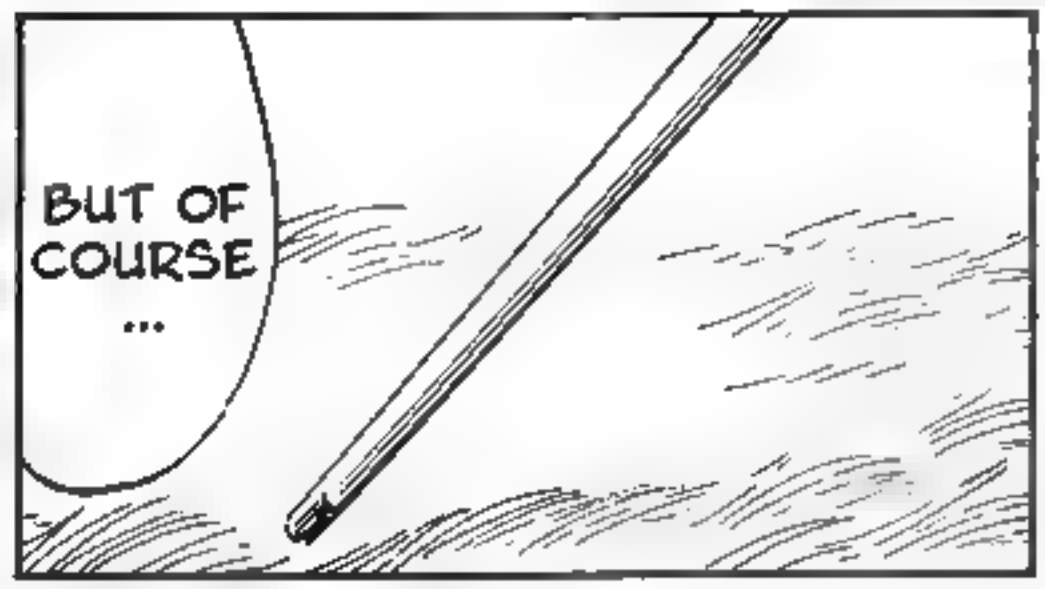
I HEAR THAT THERE'S A PLACE CALLED "TAKAMATSU CRATER" IN KUKAI'S HOMELAND OF SANUKI, NOW KAGAWA PREFECTURE.

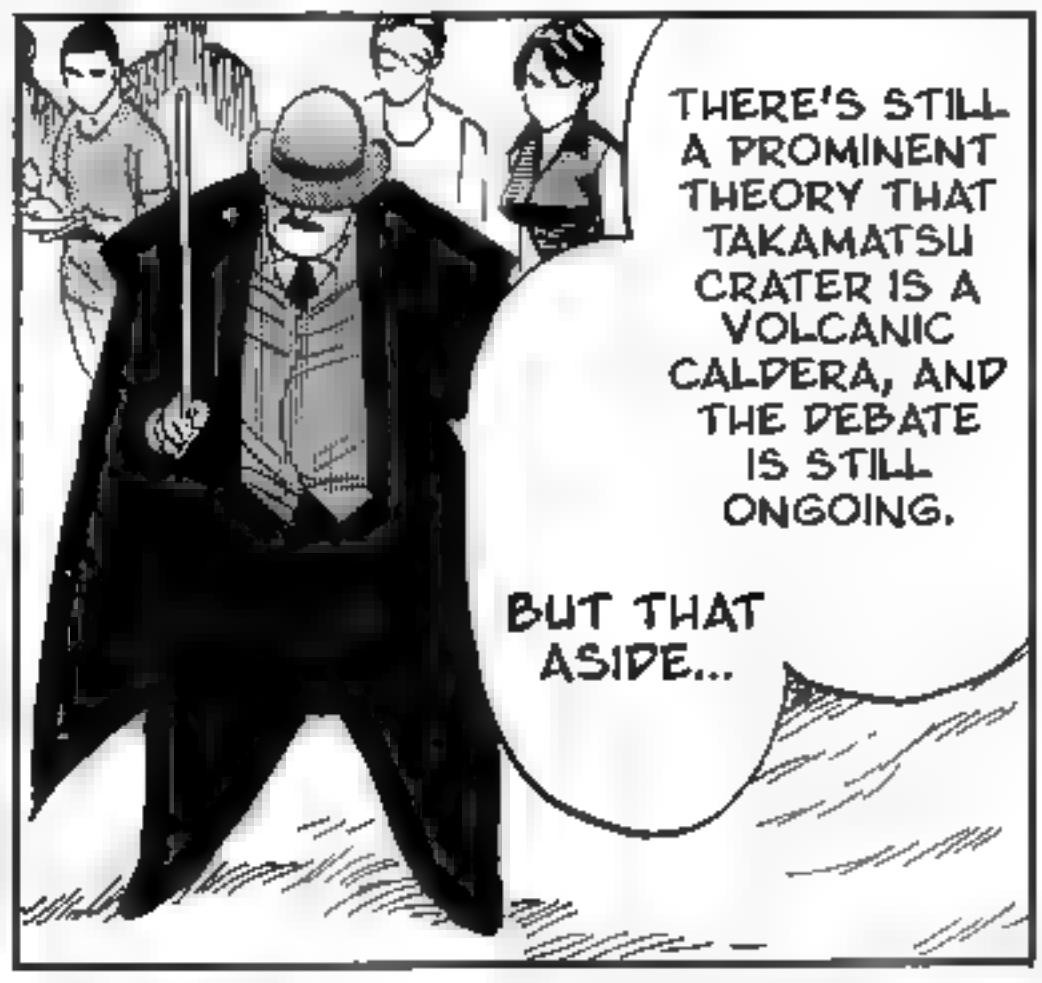


THE ESTIMATED DATE OF THE CRATER WAS 14 MILLION YEARS AGO...!

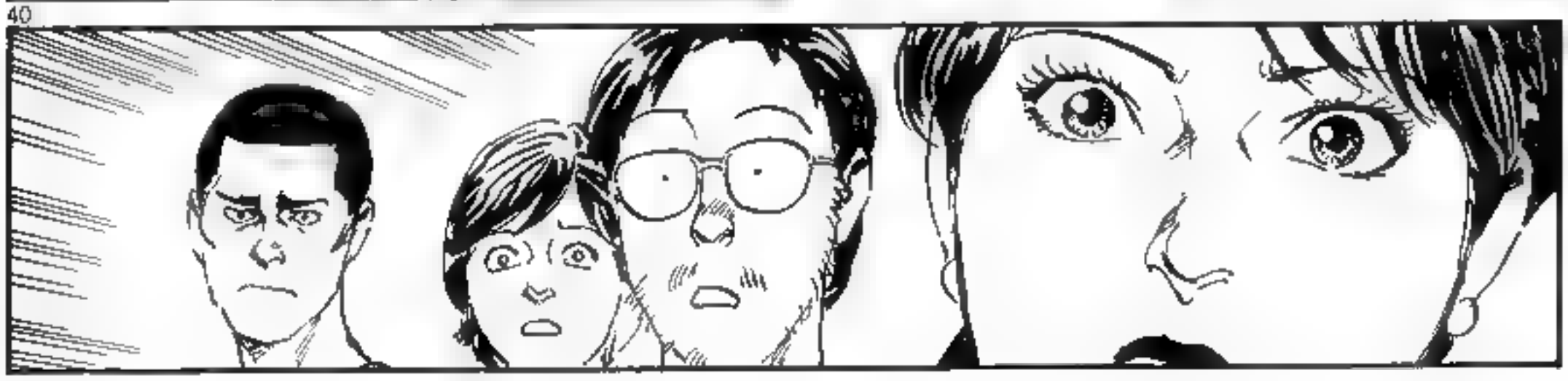

Takamatsu
City
Mt
Bussho
DUE TO A GRAVITY ANOMALY IN A PART OF THE FLAT TAKAMATSU PLAINS NEAR MT. BUSSHO, THEY DISCOVERED A CRATER 5KM IN DIAMETER BURIED UNDER-GROUNR


I THINK THAT HOSHI-NO-TAIRA IS A METEORIC CRATER!


BUT OF COURSE ...


THERE'S STILL A PROMINENT THEORY THAT TAKAMATSU CRATER IS A VOLCANIC CALDERA, AND THE DEBATE IS STILL ONGOING.
BUT THAT ASIDE...

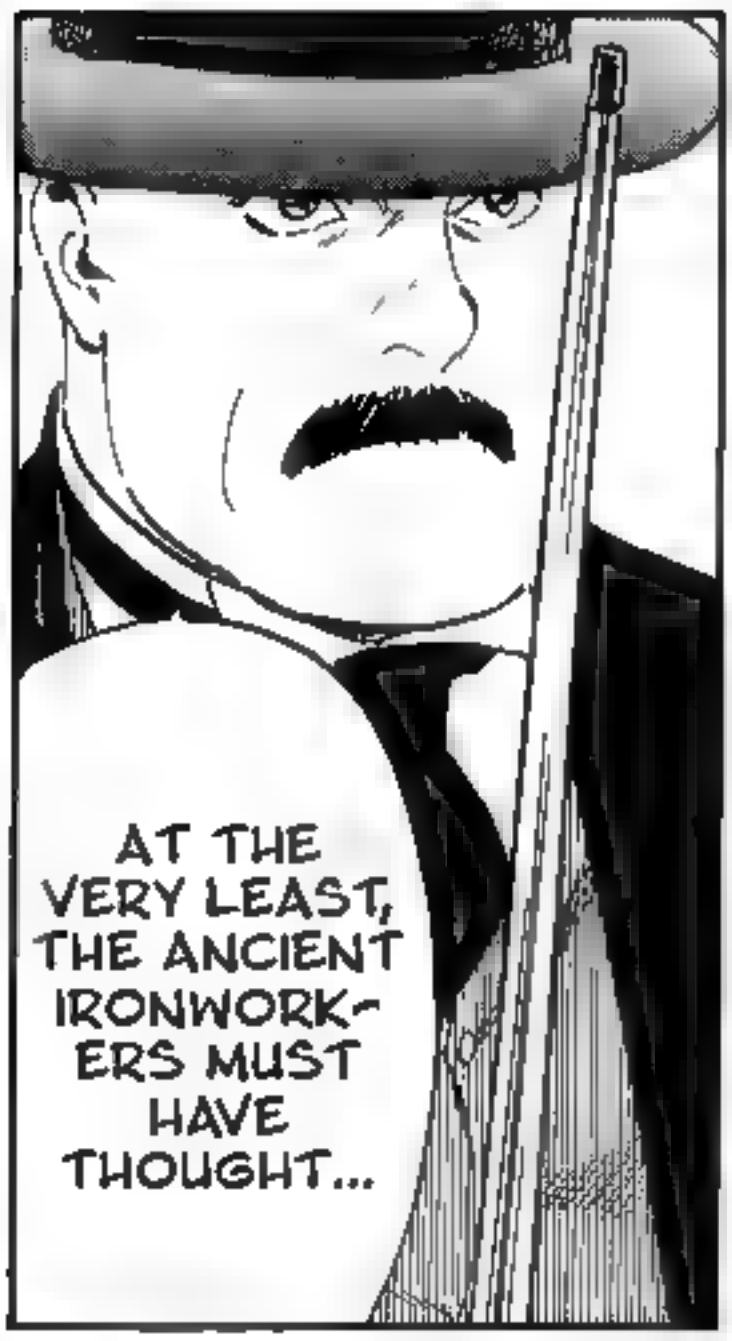
40



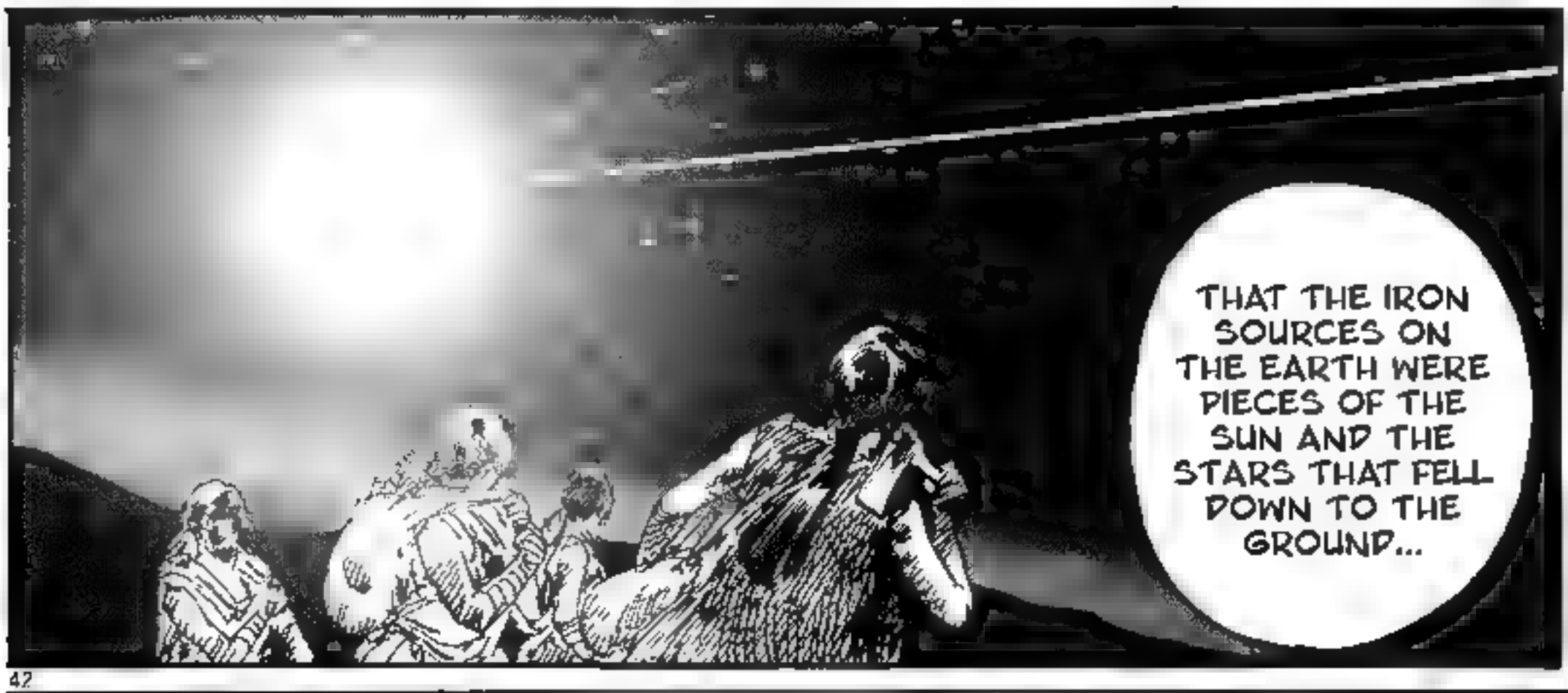
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ERA IT WAS FROM. IT'S EVEN UNCLEAR IF IT WAS WITNESSED BY HUMANS...

BUT THEY SAY THAT THE FIRST IRON TOOLS WERE NOT MADE FROM IRON ORE OR IRON SANDS, BUT "METEORIC IRON".

"METEORIC IRON"... A CLUMP OF IRON THAT CAME FROM SPACE.


AT THE VERY LEAST, THE ANCIENT IRONWORK-ERS MUST HAVE THOUGHT...

Meteoric Iron
Shortsword
Alacahöyük, Turkey
2300 BCE
THEY MELTED THE METEORIC IRON TO MAKE THE FIRST IRON TOOLS... SOME OBJECT TO THIS THEORY, BUT IT'S UNDISPUTED THAT THE ANCIENTS PAID ATTENTION TO METEORIC IRON.


THAT THE IRON SOURCES ON THE EARTH WERE PIECES OF THE SUN AND THE STARS THAT FELL DOWN TO THE GROUND...

THAT THE GOD OF THE STARS, AN OFFSHOOT OF THE SUN, GAVE BIRTH TO IRON...

AND THEY WOULD FIND THEM BURIED DEEP IN CRATERS...

BACK IN THE DAY WHEN IRON WAS MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD, THE IRONWORKERS WOULD HAVE SOUGHT AND REVERED THE GOD OF THE STARS THAT BROUGHT THEM IRON.

.....

NIGIHAYAHI, SAID TO BE THE GRANDSON OF THE SUN GODDESS AMATERASU... THE MONONOBE CLAN'S ANCESTRAL GOD WAS THE GOD OF METEORIC IRON!

COMETS, WHICH FLY THROUGH THE NIGHT SKY AT HIGH SPEEDS WHILE SHINING BRIGHT, MAY HAVE BEEN CALLED "HAYAHI", OR "QUICK SUN", IN JAPAN.

手打うどん

Suburbs of Nangoku City, Kochi

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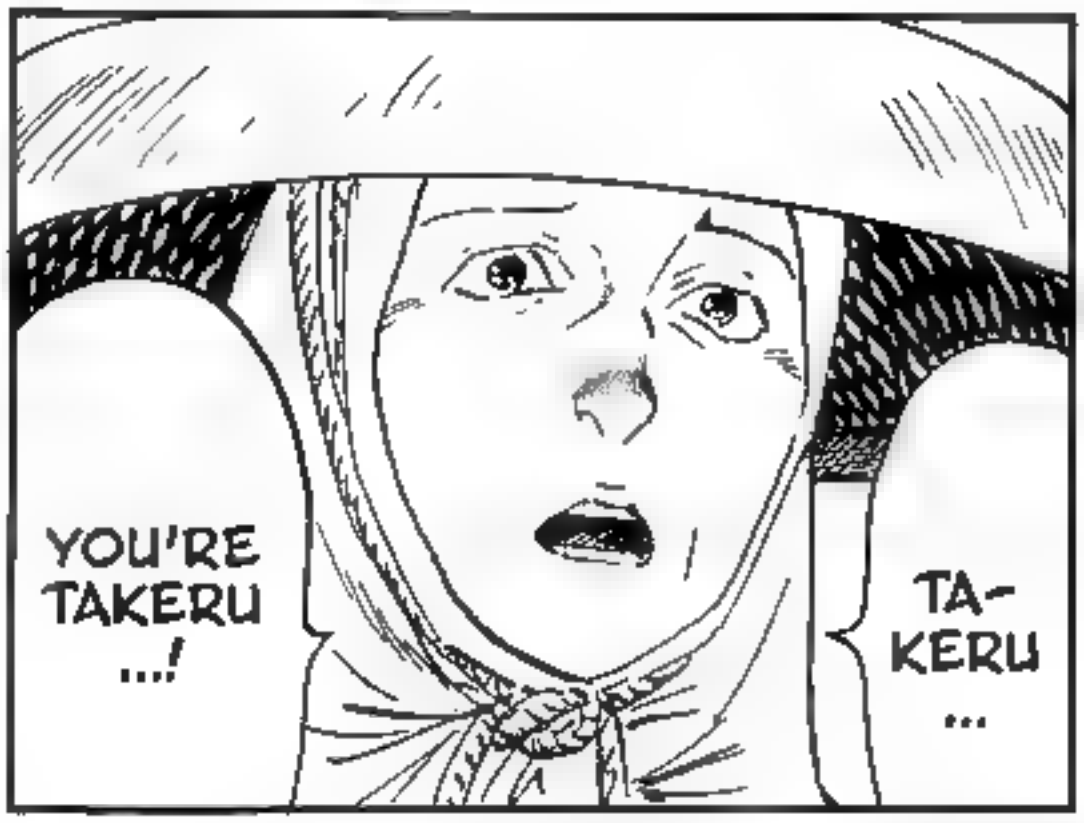
THAT WAS INUZUKA, WHO'S DISGUISED HIMSELF AS AN EXCAVATION WORKER. THEY'RE GONNA START EXCAVATING THE CENTER NOW.

YEAH, I'M HEADING YOUR WAY RIGHT NOW.

A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR FIGURED OUT ABOUT THE METEORIC IRON? OH... BUT HE CAN'T HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT US YET.

W...WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS!?


YOU'RE TAKERU ...!
TA-KERU ...

WHAT'S WITH THE OUTFIT...?
MOM...
WHILE YOU WERE GONE, YOUR FATHER P...
H...HEY! WE'RE MOVING OUT!

TAKERU! TAKERU!!

46

WHERE DOES THIS ROAD LEAD !?

HOSHI-NO-TAIRA...

IT GOES ALL THE WAY TO OKU-MONONOBE. COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE'VE BEEN A LOT OF PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT TRAV-ELLING UP THE ROAD THESE DAYS. I HEAR THEY'RE EXCAVATING A RUIN AT HOSHI-NO-TAIRA.

THEY DISCOVERED THE RUINS OF ANCIENT KILNS IN WEST INNO IN SHIMANE.

I WONDERED AS MUCH.

...EXACTLY, MS. KANA.

THE PEOPLE OF INBE VILLAGE HAVE LIVED OFF OF IRON-WORKS AND BLACKSMITHING SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL.

!

THERE WERE BRANCHES OF THE INBE CLAN THAT HANDLED IRON.

THAT'S WHY THEY CLASHED WITH THE MONONOBE!

T... THAT'S THE MONO-NOBE'S "CURSE STAVE"!!

40

*A RITUAL IN WHICH ONE PRAYS TO THE GODS AND BUDDHAS SUCH THAT MISFORTUNE MAY BEFALL THEIR ENEMY

THEY MEAN TO KEEP US FROM INNO VILLAGE FROM HOSHI-NO-TAIRA!
T... THEY'VE FORMED A BARRIER WITH CURSE STAVES!

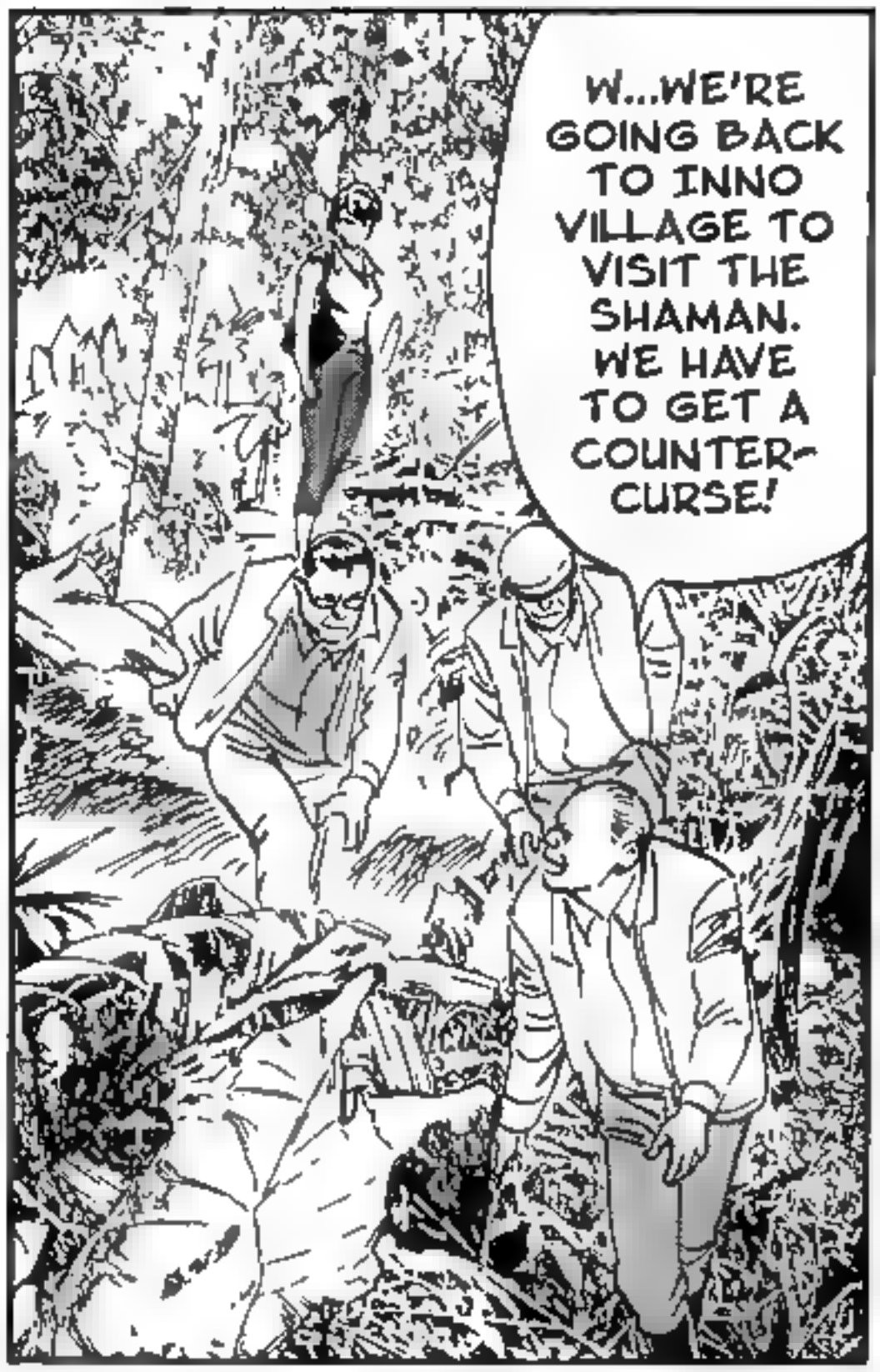
DON'T TOUCH IT!

.....

THOSE ARE THE OKU-MON ONOBE'S "IZA-NAGI-STYLE" STAVES! THEY'LL CURSE YOU!

THEY SAY THAT THE MOUNTAINS OF THE PREFECTURAL BOUNDARIES WERE DOTTED WITH "CURSE" AND "COUNTER-CURSE" PAPER EFFIGIES. THERE WERE COUNTLESS DEATHS ON EITHER SIDE...

THERE WAS A SKIRMISH BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF TOKUSHIMA AND THE MONONOBE IN THE MEIJI TIMES...


W...WE'RE GOING BACK TO INNO VILLAGE TO VISIT THE SHAMAN. WE HAVE TO GET A COUNTER-CURSE!

THE SHAMAN... COUNTER-CURSE...

52

WE WRITE IN BLOOD ON THE GATES OF THE GODS, DRIVE A NEEDLE INTO THE BUDDHA'S EYE, AND CAST THIS CURSE. HAIL THE GODS OF THE CURSE!!

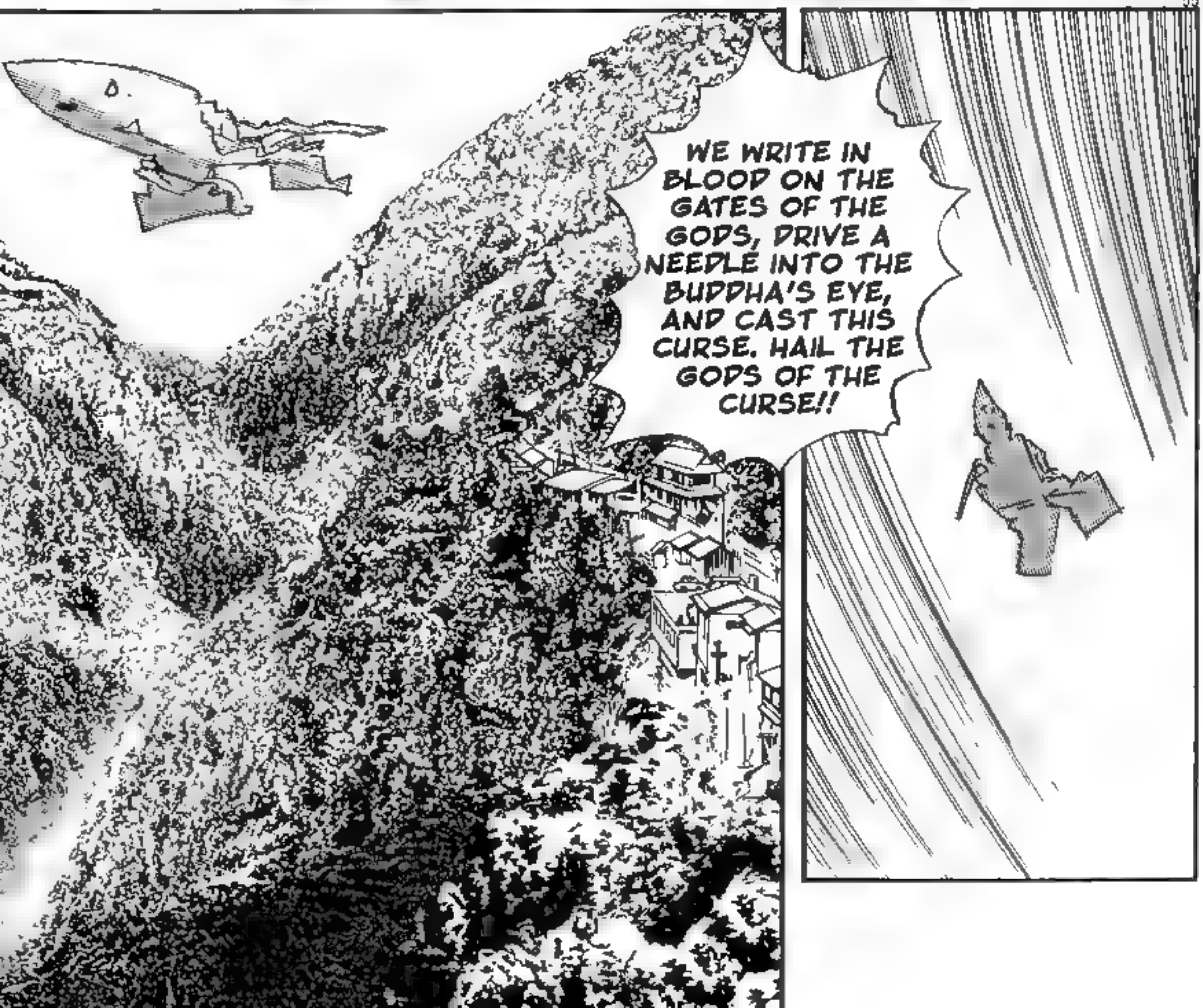
O FOE OF OUR LAND, FOE OF STRONG PRAYER... I CAST ON THEE FIRE, I CAST ON THEE HEMP, THAT FLOWERS OF BLOOD MAY BLOSSOM WITHIN OUR ENEMIES' BREASTS...

Moriya Village

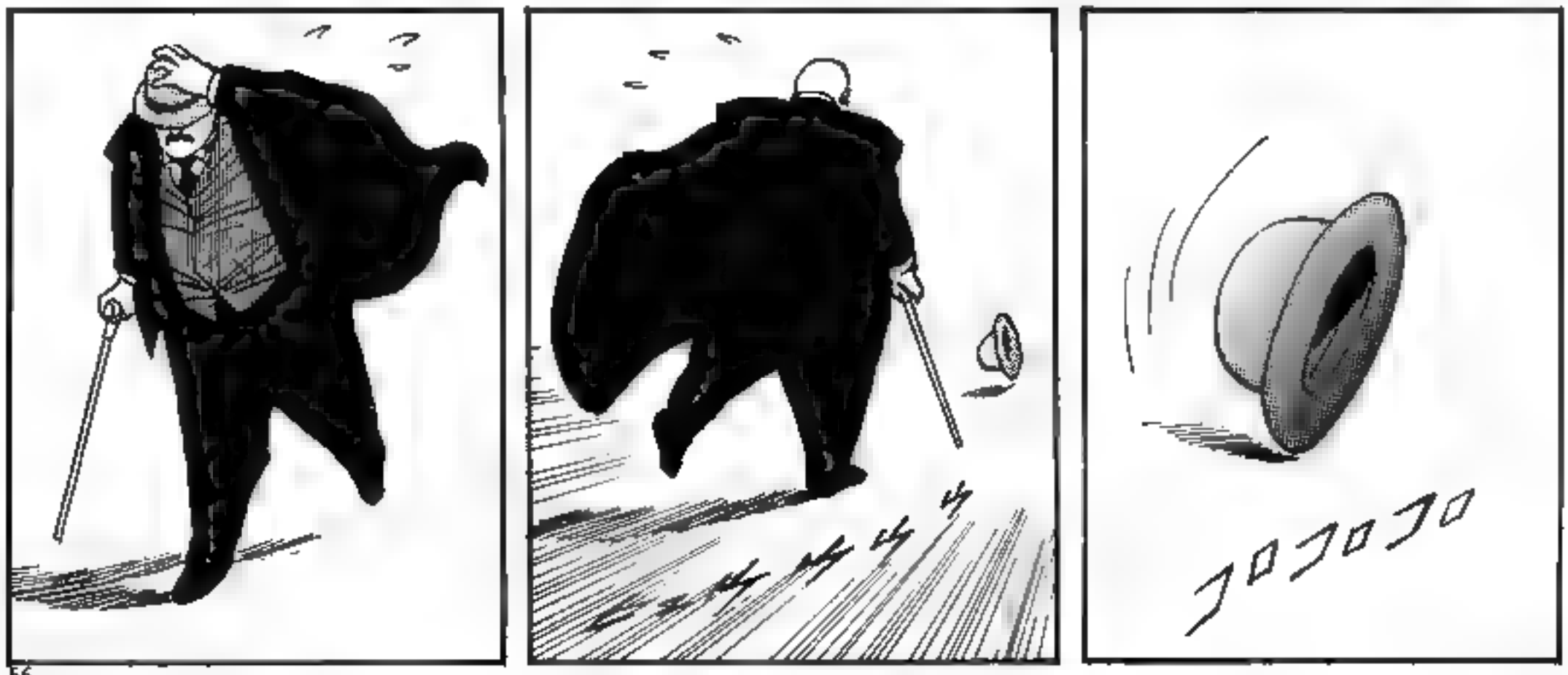
The Izanagi style, said to be a fusion of Onmyodo and Shugendo, was a folk religion that governed the use of ritual healing and curses through staves and ad dresses to the gods

There are next to no documents that tell of its history of survival in the Mononobe territory, and its origins prior to the Edo Period are unknown.

PRAY WITH THE PRIEST! WE HAVE TO COM-BINE OUR POWERS OR WE WILL LOSE TO INNO VILLAGE!


WE WRITE IN BLOOD ON THE GATES OF THE GODS, DRIVE A NEEDLE INTO THE BUDDHA'S EYE, AND CAST THIS CURSE. HAIL THE GODS OF THE CURSE!!

Hoshi-no-Taira,
on the Kochi-Tokushima border



A BRONZE BELL... YOU'VE EVEN DUG UP YAYOI-PERIOD RUINS NOW...

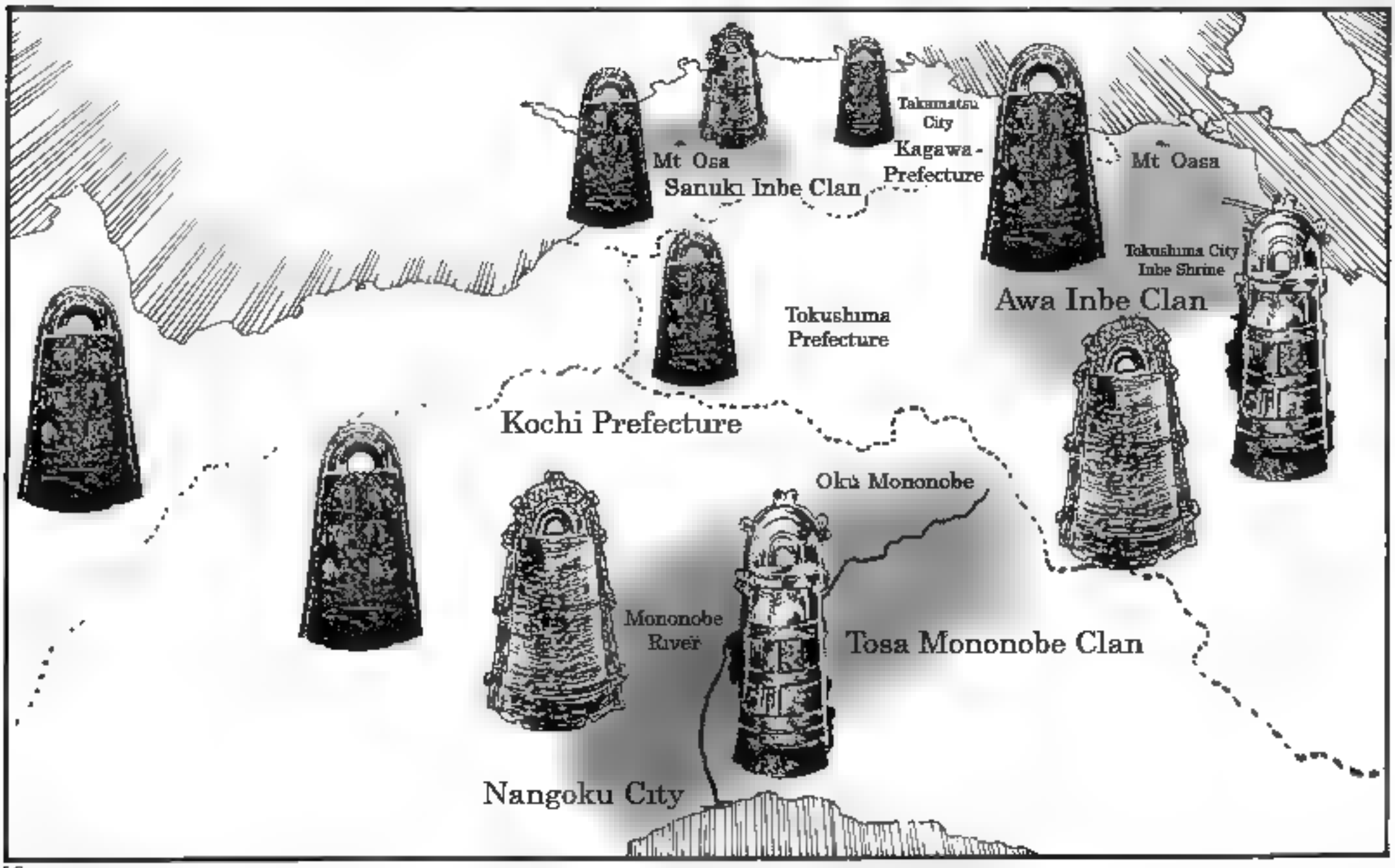
NOT NECES-SARILY.

THERE ARE SIGNS THAT IT WAS DAMAGED IN-TENTIONALLY. I CAN'T SAY THAT THIS IS UNPRECE-DENTED...
BUT PERHAPS THIS WAS CACHED BY THE ANCIENT MONONOBE CLAN?

IT WAS A SACRED PLACE FOR THE INBE, TOO!

BUT THEY SAID THAT HOSHI-NO-TAIRA WAS A SACRED PLACE FOR THE MONO-NOBE.

IT MAY HAVE BEEN BURIED BY THE AWA INBE...



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THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THE INBE WERE ON PAR WITH THE MONONOBE IN THE AREA OF METAL REFINING AS WELL!

THERE HAVE, IN FACT, BEEN MORE CHINESE BRONZE BELLS EXCA-VATED FROM THE AWA AND SANUKI INBE'S TERRITORY, AND THEY HAD BRONZE MINES AS WELL.

COME TO THINK OF IT, SOME OF THE INBE CLAN WORSHIPPED A GOD CALLED "AMA-NO-MEHITOT-SU-NO-KAMI" AS THEIR ANCESTRAL DEITY.

HE WAS A GOD OF THE FORGE.

I SEE YOU'VE LEARNED QUITE A BIT FROM YOUR STAY IN INNO VILLAGE...

THE SAME GOES FOR THE GOD HACHIMAN, AND INCLUDING THE GREEK GOD HEPHAESTUS, ALL ONE-EYED GODS AROUND THE WORLD WERE RELATED TO THE FORGING OF METAL.

IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW!

YOU MEAN THEY WERE WARRING OVER SACRED GROUND? THE INBE BURNED DOWN ISHIFUNE SHRINE THAT THE MONONOBE BUILT, AND THE MONONOBE DESTROYED THE BRONZE BELL THAT THE INBE BURIED...!?

ANYWAY! IF THEY WERE INVOLVED WITH METAL REFINING, IT WOULDN'T BE SUCH A SURPRISE IF THE INBE CLAN WERE DRAWN HERE IN SEARCH OF THE METE-ORIC IRON, WOULD IT!?

L...LET'S PUT THE EXCAVATION ON HOLD UNTIL THE WIND DIES DOWN. MAKE SURE THE TARPS ARE SECURED SO THEY DON'T BLOW AWAY!

60

I'VE HEARD ABOUT THESE SHAMANS AND CURSES, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THEY SURVIVED IN SHIKOKU...

THIS IS REALLY PICKING UP. PERHAPS THE PSYCHIC WAR IS BECOMING SUPER-CHARGED. HEHEH...

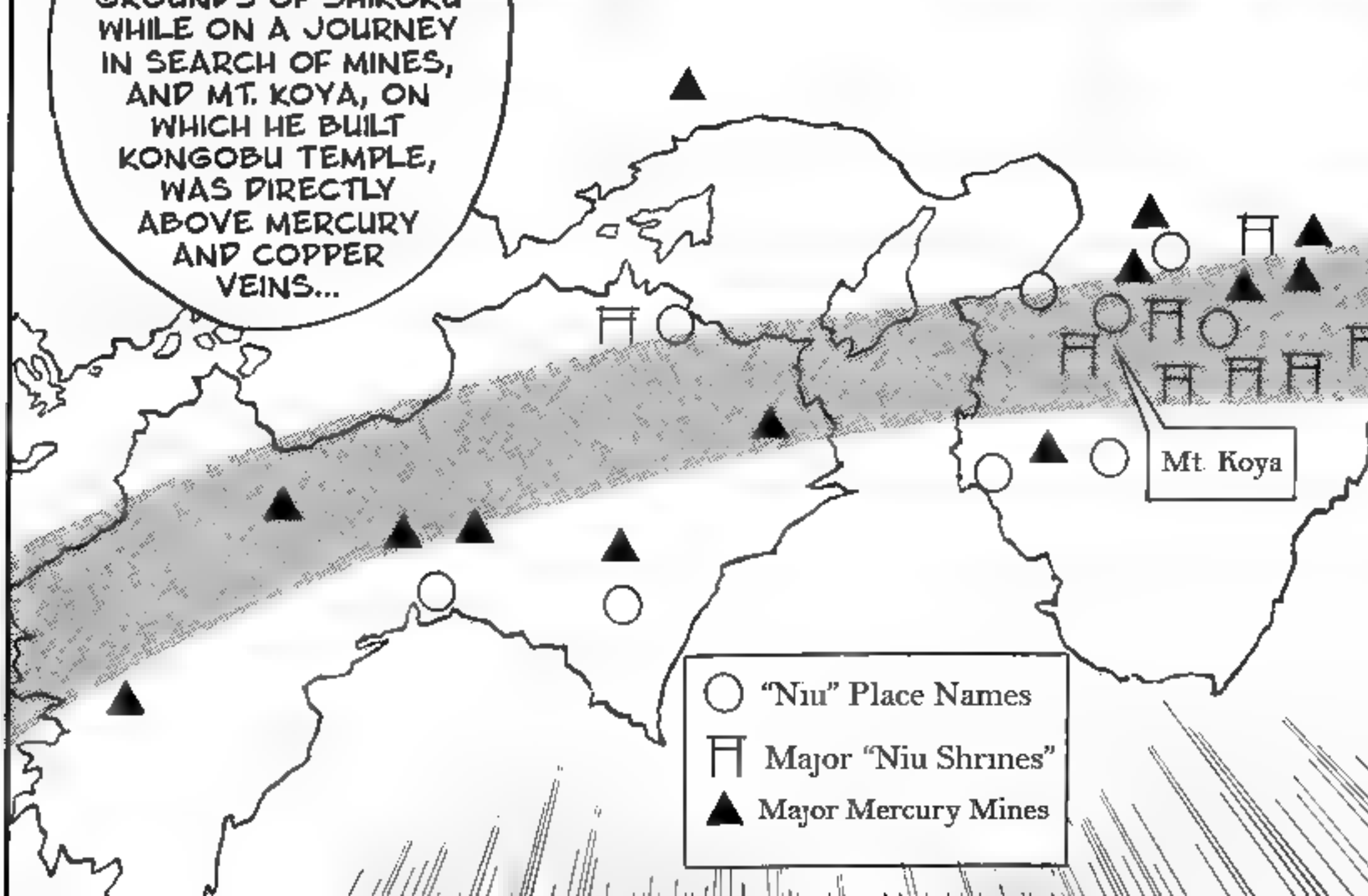
THE "ESOTERICISM" THAT KUKAI BROUGHT BACK WITH HIM AFTER HIS STUDY IN TANG CHINA MUST HAVE INFLUENCED THE CURSES OF SHUGENDO.
SHIKOKU WAS ALWAYS A LAND WHERE SHUGENDO FLOURISHED. THERE WAS EVEN A TIME WHEN KUKAI WAS ONE OF THE SHUGENSHA.

AMONG THE THINGS THAT KUKAI BROUGHT BACK WITH HIM WAS KNOWLEDGE OF MINERAL RESOURCES SUCH AS "MERCURY".
AND ONE MORE THING...

IT WAS ALSO A FAMOUS MINERAL THAT WAS COMPOUNDED WITH GOLD AND USED TO GILD THE SURFACES OF BUDDHA STATUES.
MERCURY WAS ALSO CALLED "CINNABAR" OR "VERMILLION", AND THE LANDS THAT PRODUCED IT WERE KNOWN AS "NIU". NOBLES PRIZED IT AS A PANACEA, OR AS A MEDICINE FOR IMMORTALITY.

MERCURY IS PRODUCED FROM THE MEDIAN TECTONIC LINE, WHICH HAPPENS TO COINCIDE WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLACES CALLED "NIU" AND "NIU SHRINES".

THIS IS WHY THERE IS A THEORY THAT KUKAI OPENED UP THE EIGHTY-EIGHT SACRED GROUNDS OF SHIKOKU WHILE ON A JOURNEY IN SEARCH OF MINES, AND MT. KOYA, ON WHICH HE BUILT KONGOBU TEMPLE, WAS DIRECTLY ABOVE MERCURY AND COPPER VEINS...



Ancient China
Bronze Ge with
Meteoric Iron Blade

THE GENIUS KUKAI HAD MASTERED THE LATEST SCIENCE AND MEDICINE FROM TANG... YOU COULD WELL CALL HIM ANOTHER MAN THAT SOUGHT METAL.

AND HE UNDOUBTEDLY HAD LEARNED ABOUT THE METEORIC IRON THAT CAME FROM SPACE.

THERE ARE STRANGELY MANY LEGENDS ABOUT KUKAI THAT INVOLVE STARS... IN OSAKA AND KATANO, HE WAS SAID TO HAVE BROUGHT DOWN THE SEVEN STARS OF THE BIG DIPPER WITH SPIRITUAL POWER ALONE...

Iwafune Shrine

WHILE IN SHIKOKU AND CAPE MUROTO, HE HAD AN EXPERIENCE WHILE PRACTICING THE WISDOM OF AKASAGARBHA, IN WHICH A GOLD STAR DESCENDED AND ENTERED HIS BELLY. KOKUBUN TEMPLE IS WHERE HE MASTERED THE "STAR SERVICE".

Hoshida Myoken Temple

Ishifune Shrine, Kochi Prefecture

THEY ALL COINCIDE WITH PLACES WHERE STARS FELL FROM SPACE!

THEY ALL POINT TO WHAT IS BURIED IN HOSHI-NO-TAIRA CRATER...

THAT IS ATTRACTING PEOPLE HERE AND CAUSING THEM TO FIGHT OVER IT!

THAT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE REASON THAT THE INBE AND MONONOBE HAVE YET TO SETTLE THEIR DISPUTE.

Y...YOU MEAN THE METEORIC IRON IS STILL BURIED UNDER THERE...!?

EVEN IN COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA, IRON METEORS WERE WORSHIPPED AS THE MOTHERS OF THE GODS.

IN THE KINGDOM OF TROY, THEY WORSHIPPED A GIANT IRON METEOR AS THEIR GUARDIAN DEITY.

THAT JUST SHOWS HOW MUCH THEY ARE WORTH BEING SOUGHT AND FOUGHT OVER BY SO MANY...

HIM, EH...

HE SAID JUST ABOUT THE SAME THING YOU DID ABOUT NIGHAYAHI AND THE METEORIC IRON GAVE ME THE CREEPS, MAN.

HEY, KARIYA, THAT'S THE MUNAKATA GUY. I THINK HE'S CATCHING ON.

.....

BUT LISTEN!! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE DABBLING IN ACADEMIA!

IF I WAS ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW, I MIGHT'VE HAD A JOB LIKE HIS.

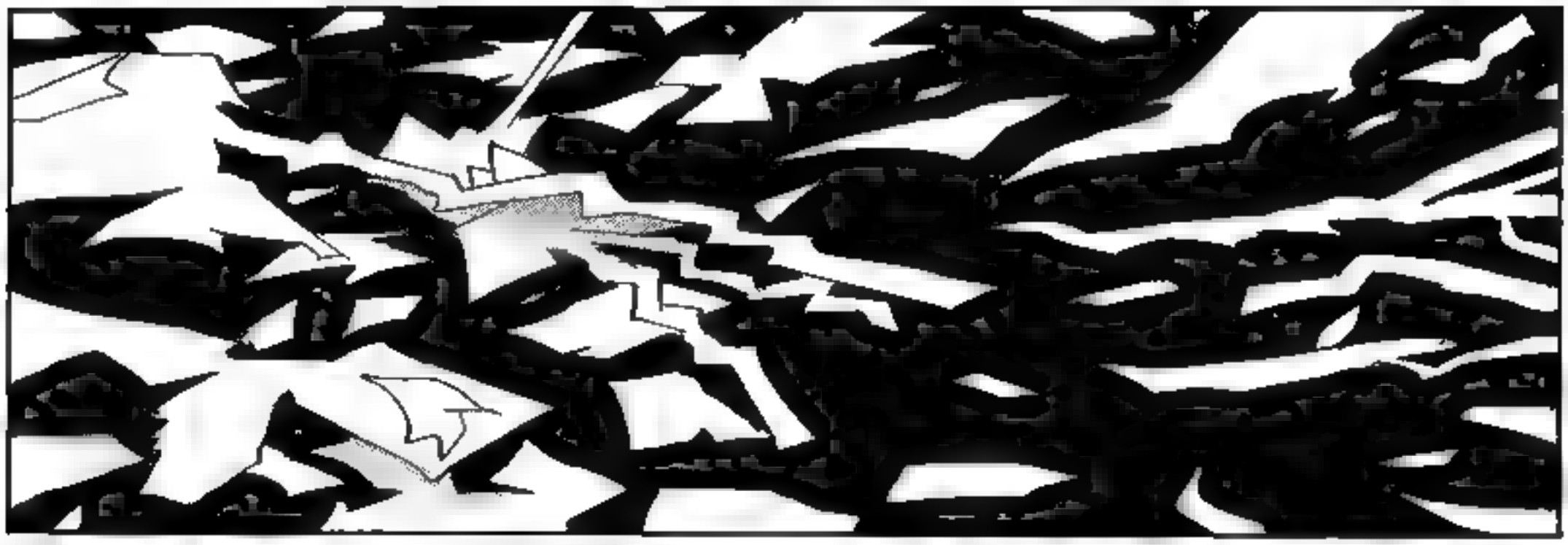
THAT PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE GRIEVED MY PARENTS AS MUCH...

METEORIC IRON IS RARE. DEPENDING ON ITS SIZE, WE CAN SELL IT FOR MILLIONS OR BILLIONS OF YEN!

IF WHAT I THINK IS TRUE, THE METEORIC IRON IS STILL BURIED IN THE CENTER OF THAT CRATER.

HEH... HEHE HEHE ...

I'LL USE THAT AS CAPITAL TO LOOK FOR TREASURE HIDDEN IN HISTORY FROM ACROSS THE NATION.
I'LL SHOW THEM HOW WELL I CAN USE MY HEAD!
KCH... THESE PAPER THINGS ARE A REAL EYESORE. GET RID OF THEM! WE MAKE OUR MOVE TONIGHT!
!



TO-
NIGHT!

WE DEFEND THE SACRED OBJECT OF NIGIHAYAHI! DO NOT LET IT FALL INTO THE INBE'S HANDS!

WE MUST GO OUR ANCES-TORS PEOUF!
WE CANNOT BE OUT-DONE BY THE MINDI-NESSE!

PLEASE CALM DOWN!! WHAT GOOD WILL COME OUT OF FIGHTING NOW!?

74

THOSE BASTARDS FROM MORIYA VILLAGE ARE HIDING SOMEWHERE! WE'RE NOT GONNA LET THEM HOG THE SACRED OBJECT SLUMBERING IN HOSHI-NO-TAIRA ALL TO THEMSELVES!!

KANA, THIS IS NO BUSINESS FOR AN IZUMO INBE LIKE YOURSELF!

THE MONO-NOBE'S CURSES ARE NOTHING BEFORE A RITUALIST CLAN LIKE US!!

WE'LL SHOW THEM THE POWER OF THE INBE CLAN!!

I'M TELLING YOU THIS AS A FELLOW INBE!

HOW LONG MUST THE DESCENDANTS OF THE PROUD INBE CLAN, WHO HAVE ADMINISTERED RITUALS IN THE IMPERIAL COURT SINCE INIQUITY, BE OBSESSED WITH SUCH A PETTY STRIFE!?

AND I'M TELLING YOU!

.....

IF YOU HAVEN'T YET FOUND THE METEORIC IRON, THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S EITHER STUCK DEEP UNDER-GROUND OR SMASHED TO DUST!

IT'S IN NO STATE TO BE DUG OUT!

BUT WHAT IF INNO VILLAGE TAKES ADVAN-TAGE OF OUR BEING GONE!?

GIVE UP THIS POINTLESS RIVALRY AND GO BACK TO MORIYA VILLAGE!

IF ANY-THING HAPPENS HERE, WE WON'T GIVE AN INCH!!

.....

WE'LL DO THAT. WE DON'T WANT THEM DAMAGING OUR DIG.

IT LOOKS LIKE NEITHER INNO NOR MORIYA VILLAGE ARE GIVING UP JUST TO BE SAFE, YOU SHOULD HAVE THE EXCAVATION STAFF CAMP OUT BY THE RUINS TONIGHT.

BUT I RAN OFF AT THE MOUTH LIKE I WAS POSSESSED BY SOMETHING...

I'M JUST AS SURPRISED MYSELF. I USUALLY DON'T GIVE ANY THOUGHT WHATSOEVER TO THE ANCIENT INBE CLAN...

AS MUCH AS WE LIKE TO THINK WE'VE MADE PROGRESS...

OR IT MAY JUST BE THAT PEOPLE'S CONSCIOUSNESS HASN'T CHANGED MUCH IN A MILLENNIUM OR TWO.

I SEE... THAT MAY JUST HAPPEN TO THOSE WITH ANCIENT LINEAGES...

78

DON'T TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY.

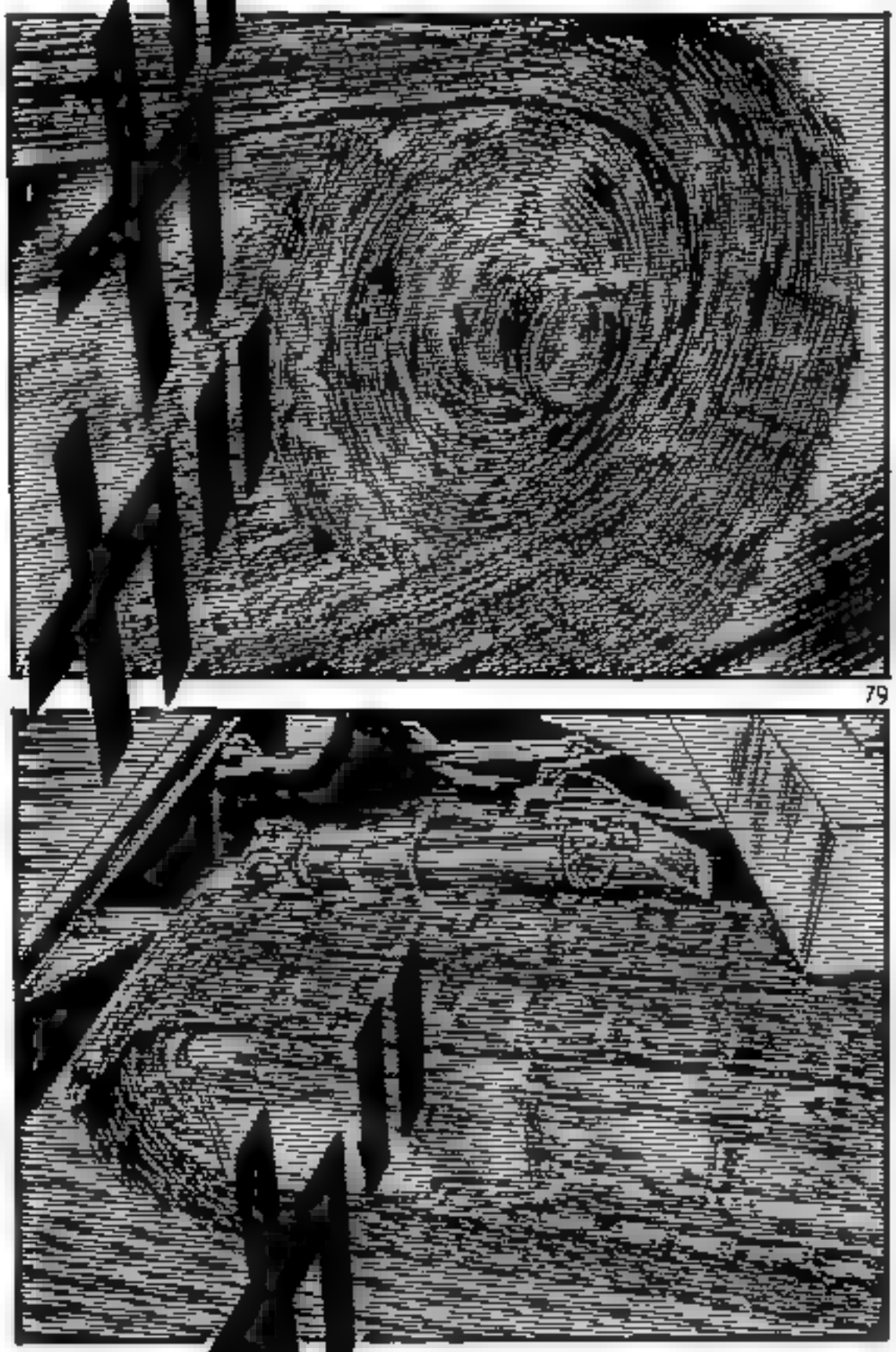
FOR INSTANCE, LET'S SAY AN ARCHAEOLOGIST LIVING TEN THOUSAND YEARS IN THE FUTURE EXCAVATES THE STRATA FROM ANCIENT TO MODERN TIMES...

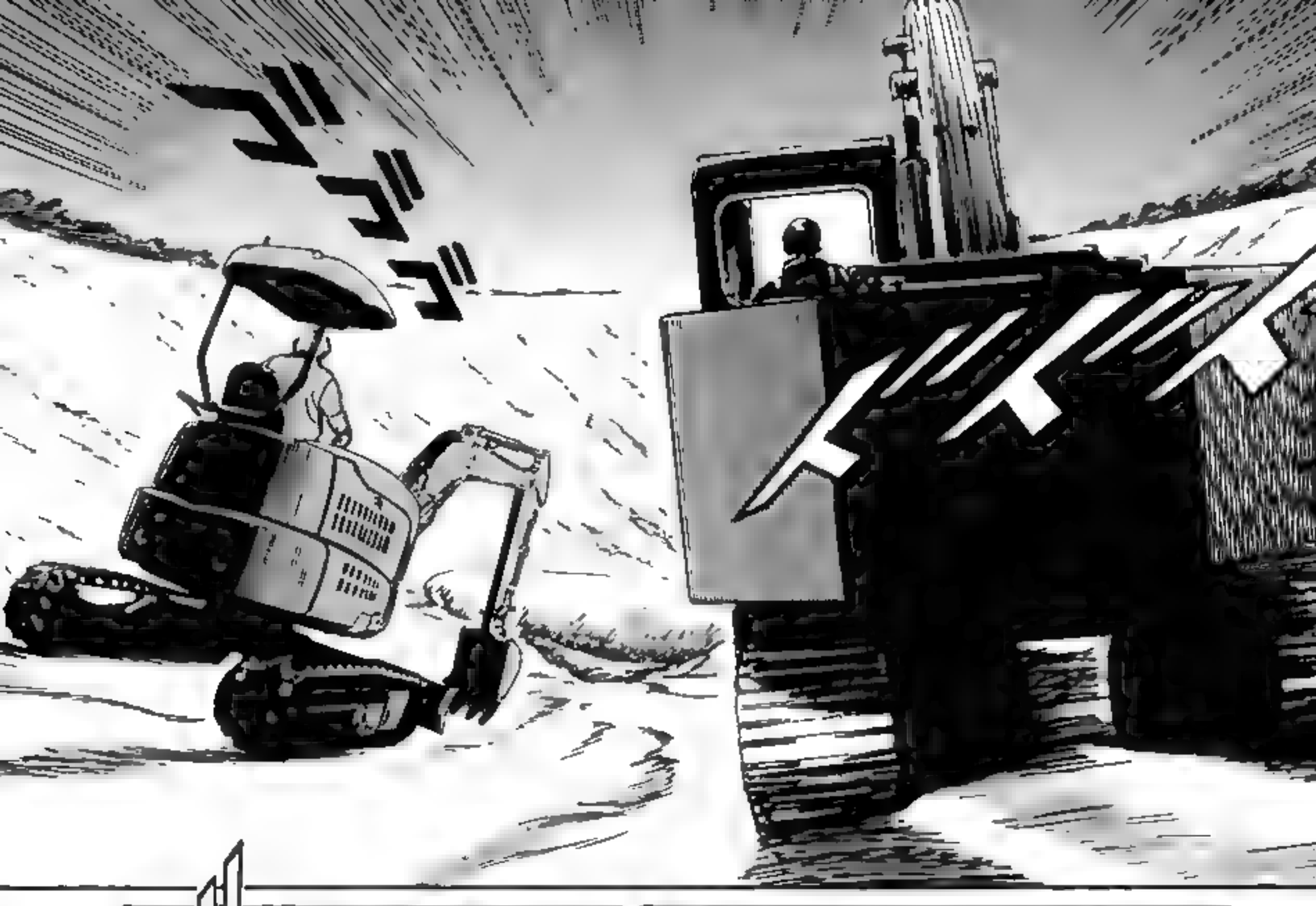
YEAH, THAT'S PROBABLY IT. WE'VE BARELY EVOLVED AT ALL SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.

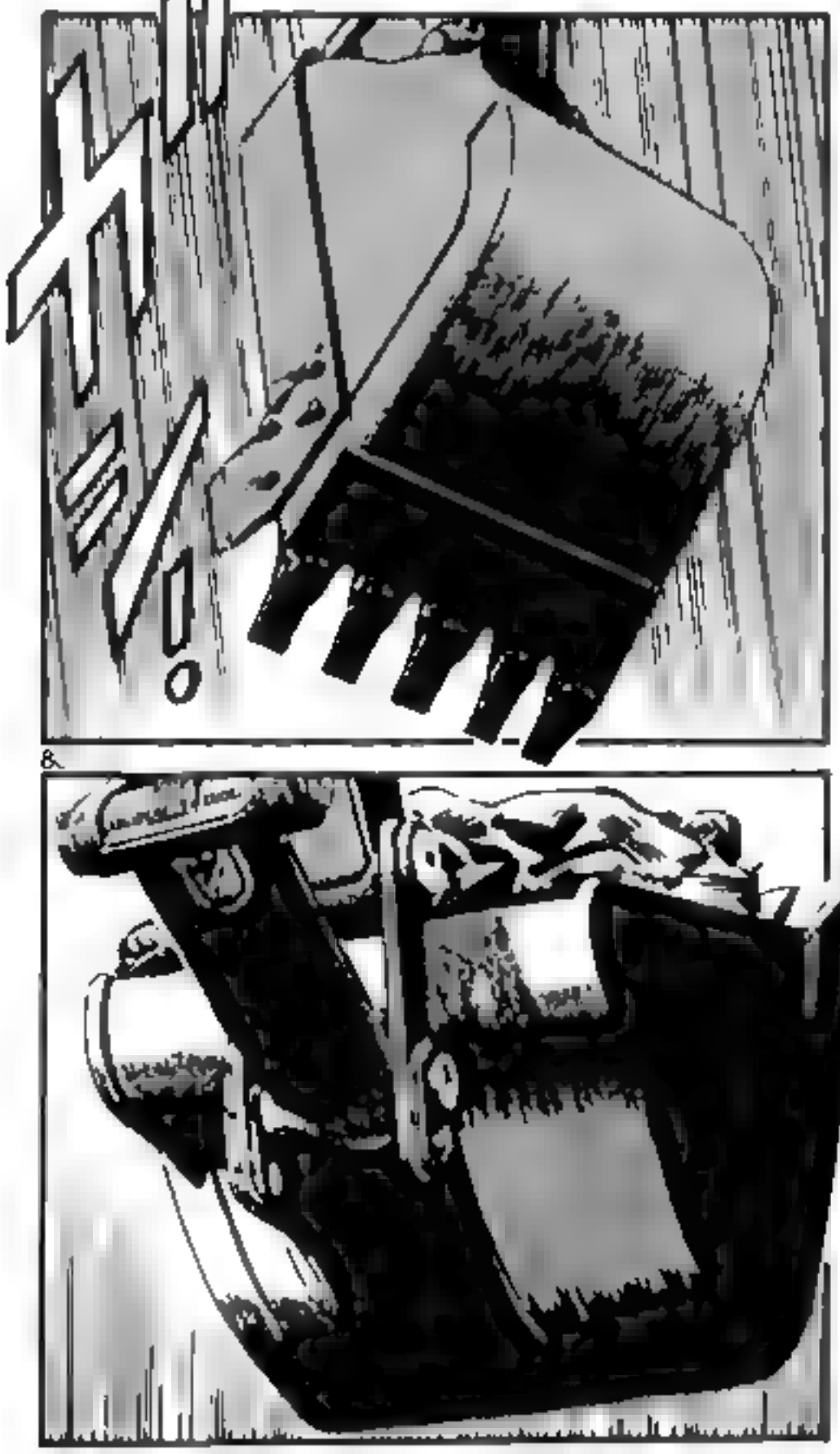
OUR MENTAL CUSTOMS AND BELIEFS ARE THE SAME NOW AS THEY WERE...

IN SPITE OF ALL THE CHANGES IN THE TOOLS AND BUILDINGS THEY SAW... IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO DETERMINE HOW THE HUMAN MIND CHANGED, IF AT ALL.

FUSHU







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W... WHO ARE THEY!? HOW COULD THEY BE SO FOOL-ISH...!?

THOSE INNO BAS-TARDS ...!!

IT'S THE MORI-YA'S DOING !!

S... STOP THEM! THIS COULD BE REALLY BAD!!

STAY THE HELL AWAY!
KEEP THEM OUT OF MY WAY! BUY ME SOME TIME UNTIL I DIG OUT THE METEORIC IRON!
Y...YOU FOOLS! YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE THE GROUND COLLAPSE! GET AWAY FROM THERE!

DON'T YOU GET IT!? IF YOU ADD ANY MORE WEIGHT TO THE CRATER, IT'LL BOTTOM OUT!!

IS THAT THE METE-ORIC IRON ...!?

TAKERU ...!!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ...?

WA AA AA AA AA AU GH !!
EAA AAA AAA AAH HHH HH...

GIVE ME YOUR HAND! NOW...

TAKERU!!

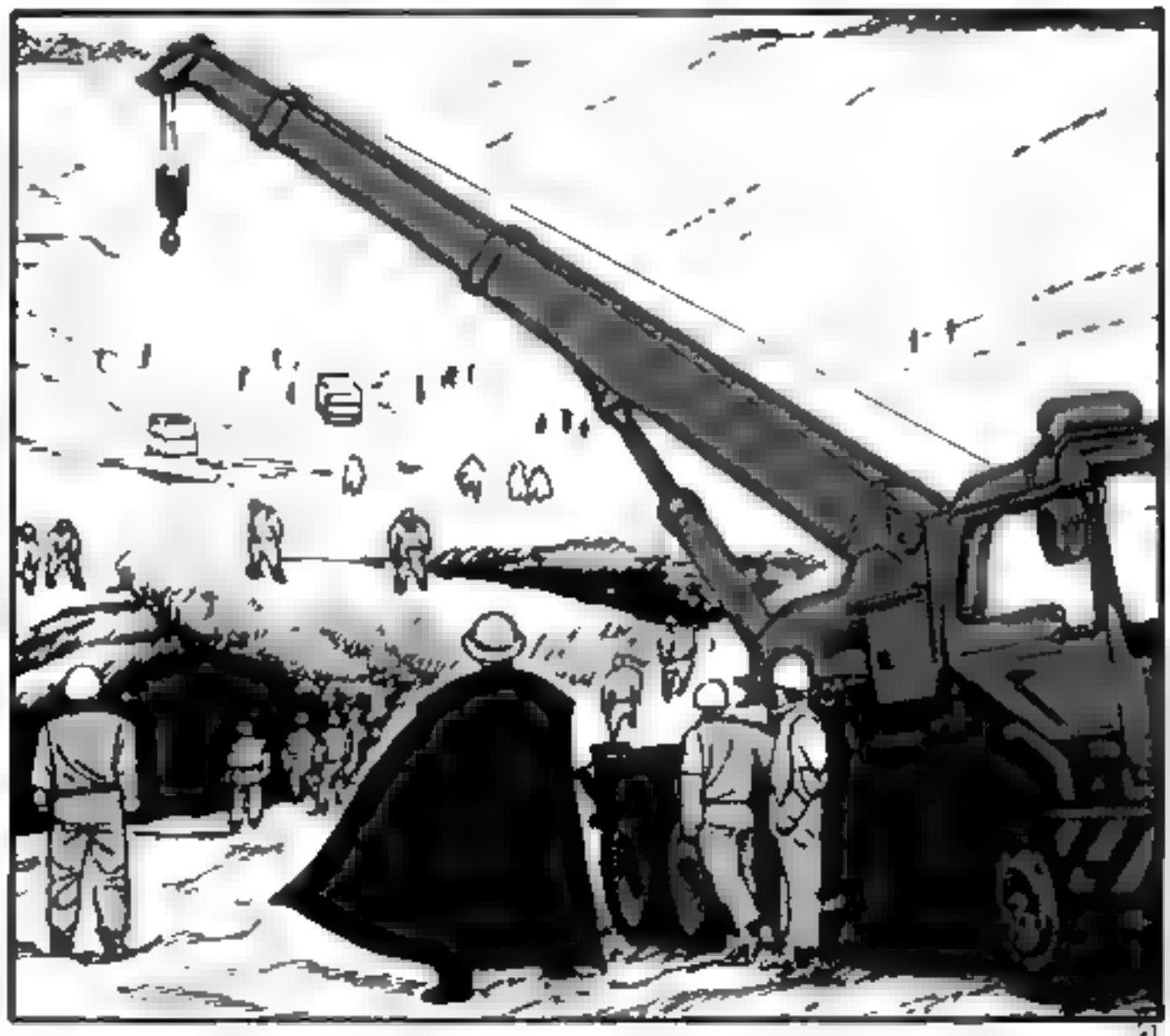
TAKE-RU!?

T... TAKE CARE OF MY MO-THER!

……

TAKERU!!

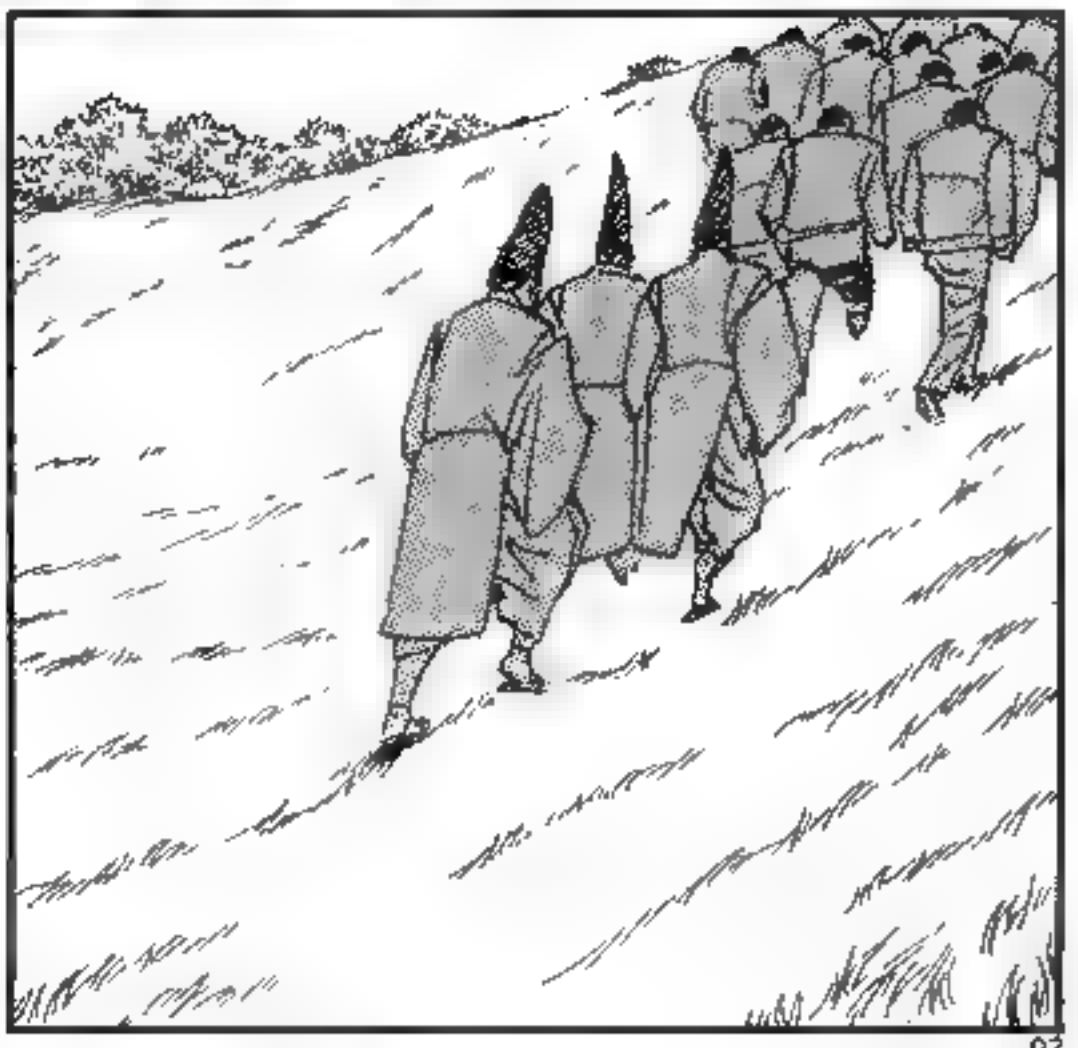
THE GROUND'S STILL UNSTABLE. FORGET A RESCUE, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO EVEN SET FOOT ON.



THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO. WE CAN'T EVEN COLLECT THE BODIES. THE BEST WE CAN DO IS FILL UP THE HOLE WITH GRAVEL TO KEEP IT FROM COLLAPSING ANY FURTHER...

...THEY'VE ALL BECOME PART OF THE RUINS NOW...

DON'T PUT IT LIKE THAT...



GRAND MASTER KUKAI SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN RELATED TO THE INBE CLAN, AND HE MUST HAVE STOPPED BY "HOSHI-NO-TAIRA" AS HE WALKED AROUND SHIKOKU, DIGGING UP MINERAL RESOURCES...

WHEN KŪKAI LEARNED OF THE QUARREL BE-TWEEN THE INBE AND MONONOBE OVER THE METEORIC IRON, HE MUST HAVE HAD THE IDEA OF BUILDING A LAKE HERE.

HE PLACED THE "IWAFUNE" MEGALITH, THE SYMBOL OF ISHIFUNE SHRINE, AT THE CENTER, TO SUBMERGE IT ALL AND SEAL OFF THE CAUSE OF THE VAIN QUARREL

SIGN: TWO ON THE PILGRIMAGE

THE OAKE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MIYAMA

CHAPTER 15

PRESENTED BY

HOKUTO NO GUN

TRANSLATED BY

SYSTEMATICCHAOS

EDITING BY

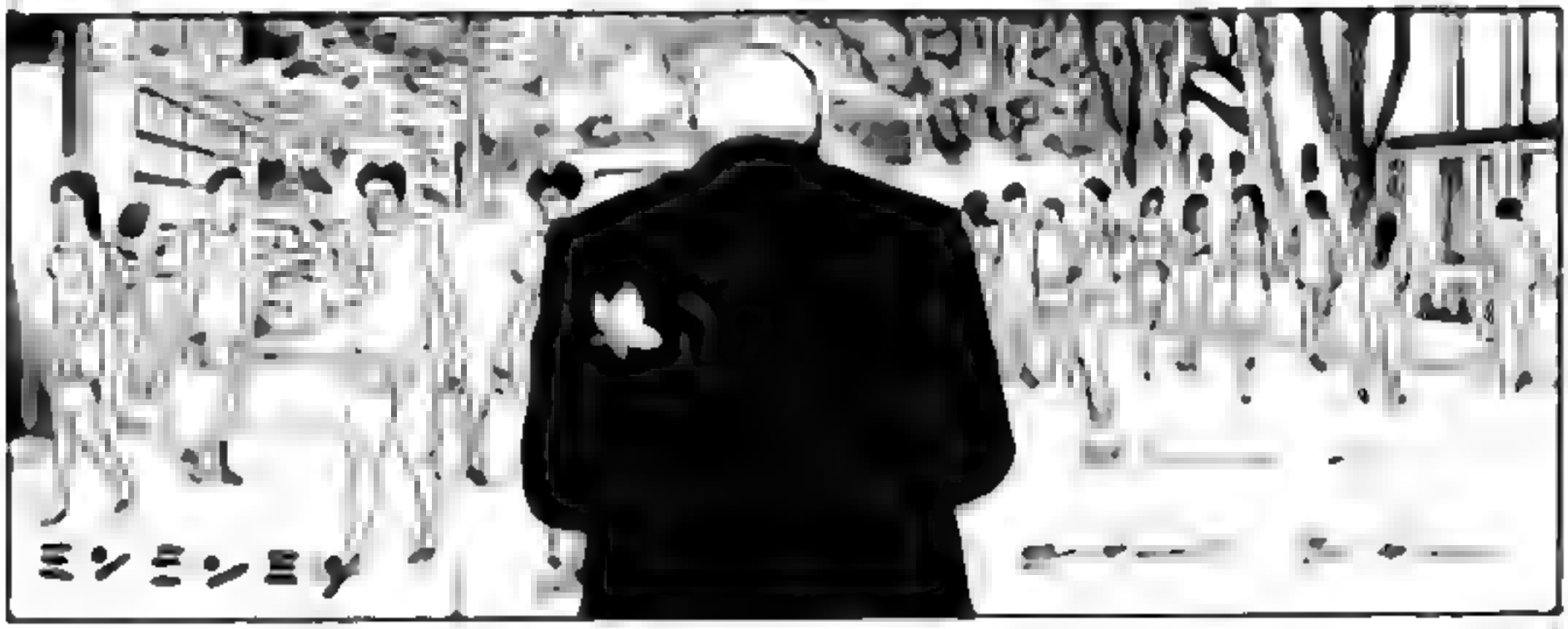
HIGHTIDE AND KAZUHIKO

PROOFREADING BY

DESTORYERRING

CHAPTER 16: THE LADY WHO LOVED INSECTS

East Asia University of Culture,
Tokyo



E... EX-CUSE ME.

BUZZ--- BUZZ---

BUZZ--- BUZZ---

I... I CAN'T GET DOWN...

I CAN'T ... HOLD ON...!

I'LL BRING YOU A LADDER RIGHT AWAY!

WAIT THERE! OKAY?

THAT'S SO HOT! I AM SO TOTALLY SENDING THIS PICTURE TO MY FRIENDS!

WOWWW! THAT'S A PRIN-CESS CARRY!

4

BZZZZZZ...

DON'T MEN-TION IT...

I'M REALLY SORRY ...

CRYP-TOTY-MPANA FACIA-LIS?

I WAS CLIMBING THE TREE TO SPRING AN AMBUSH ON A CRYP-TOTYMPANA FACIALIS, BUT I LOST MY FOOT-ING...

I'M AMANO AKITSU, A GRAD STUDENT FROM THE ENTOMO-LOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

I'M SORRY! I THINK IT LANDED ON THAT TREE... I'VE NEVER SEEN A LIVE CRYPTO-TYMPANA FACIALIS OR CHRYSOCHROA FULGIDISSIMA BEFORE...!

PROFESSOR MUNAKATA, RIGHT? I THINK ALL THE STUDENTS KNOW YOU!

ENTO-MOLO-GY... I SEE. I'M A PROFES-SOR OF FOLK-LORIS-TICS...

HEHE HE...

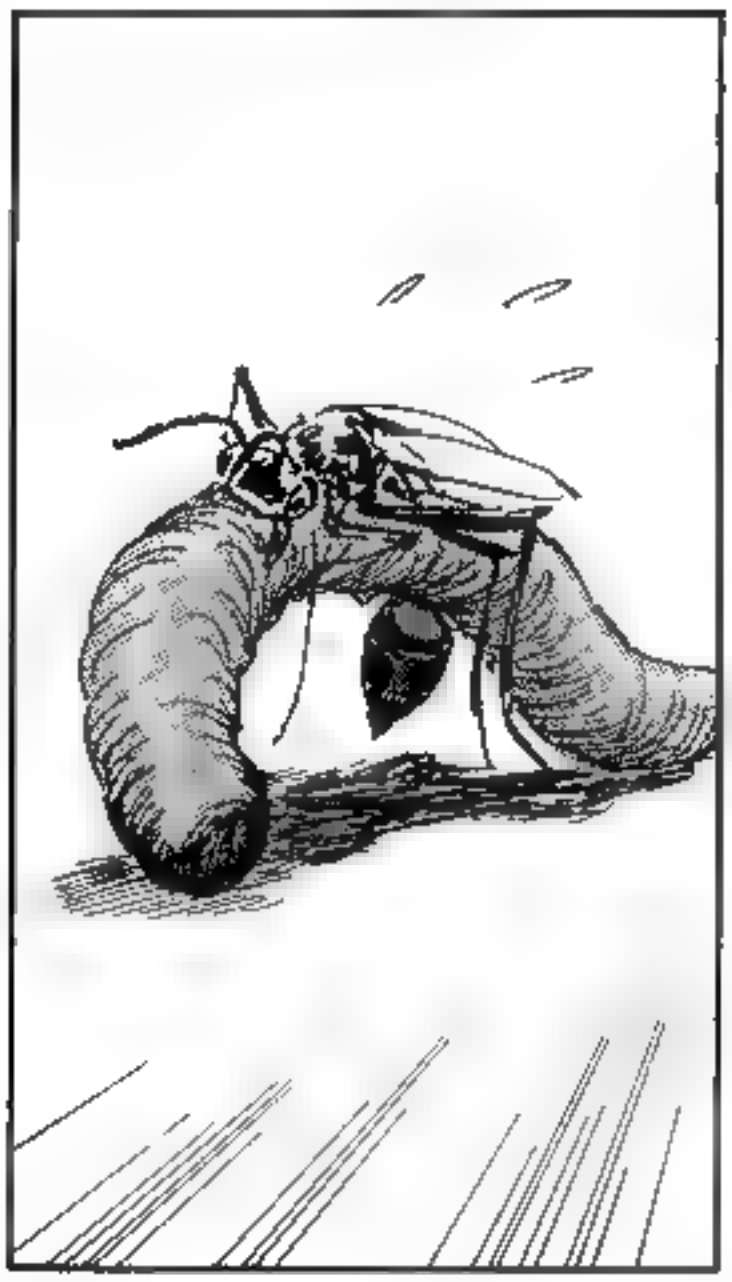
NOW, I DON'T SEE ANY SIGN OF AN ANT OR AN ANTHILL...

OH...

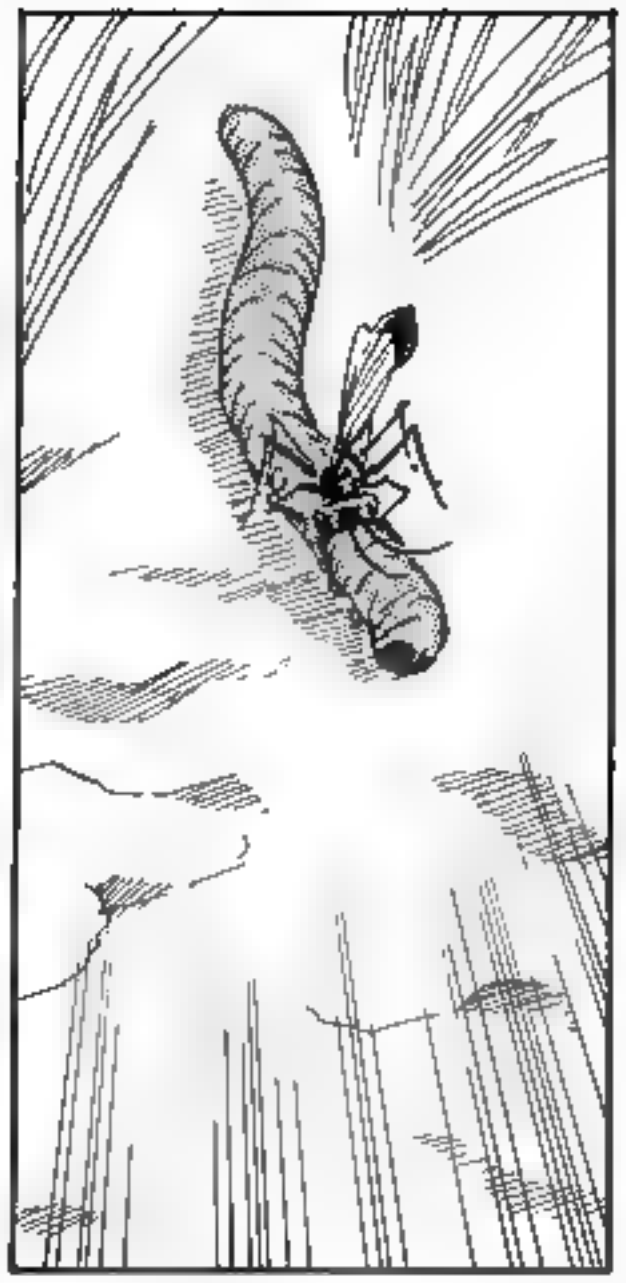
ARE YOU SURVEYING ANTS THIS TIME?

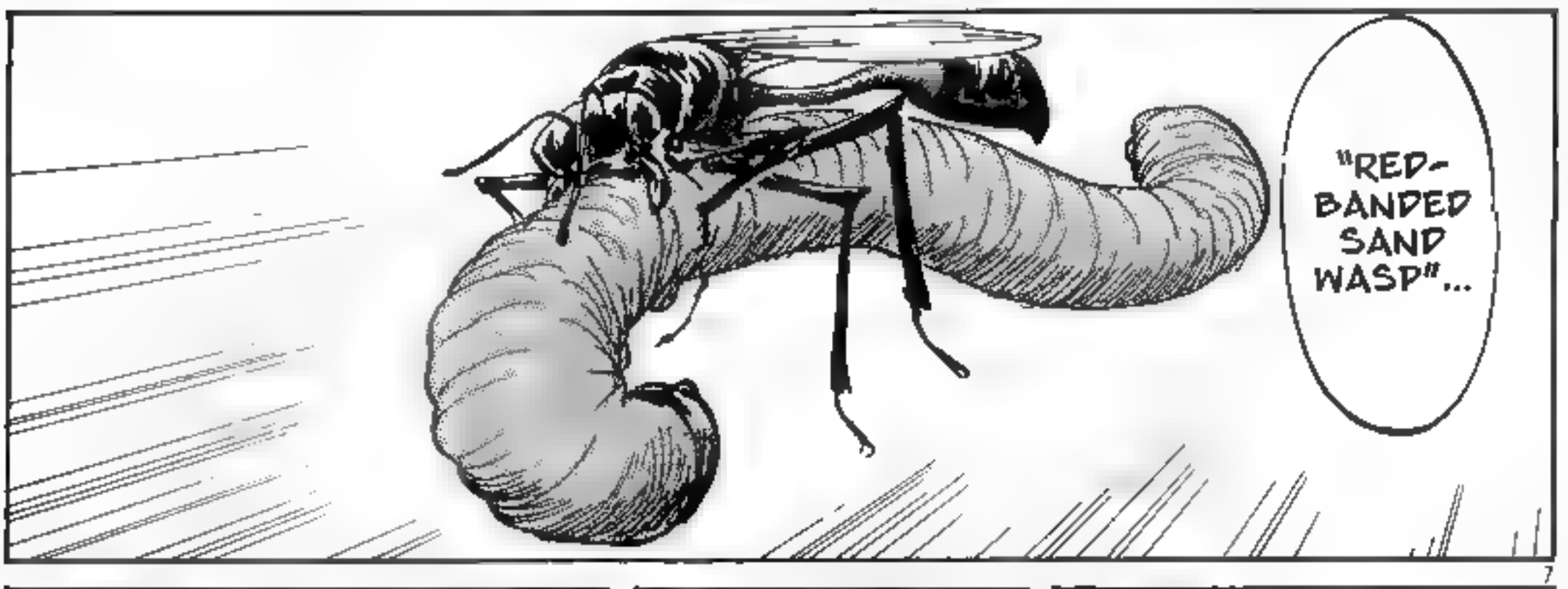
6

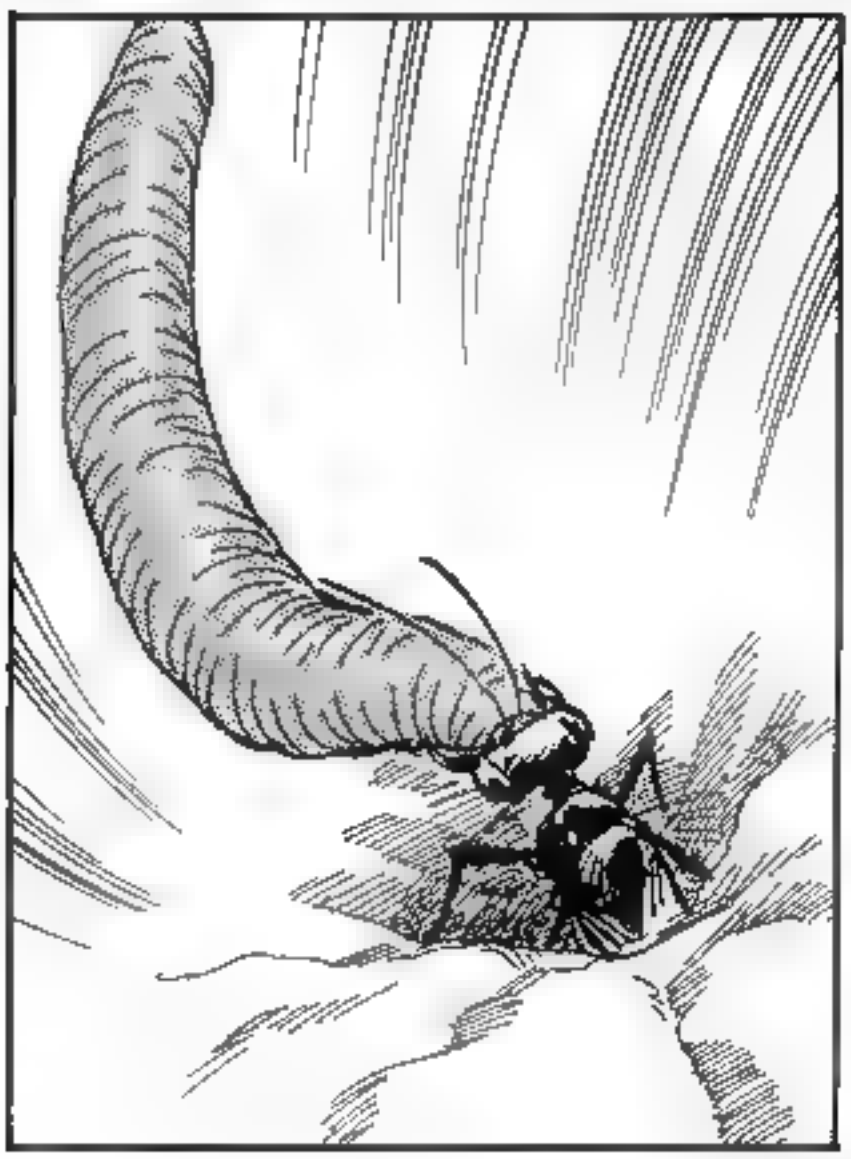
OH, THERE IT IS!

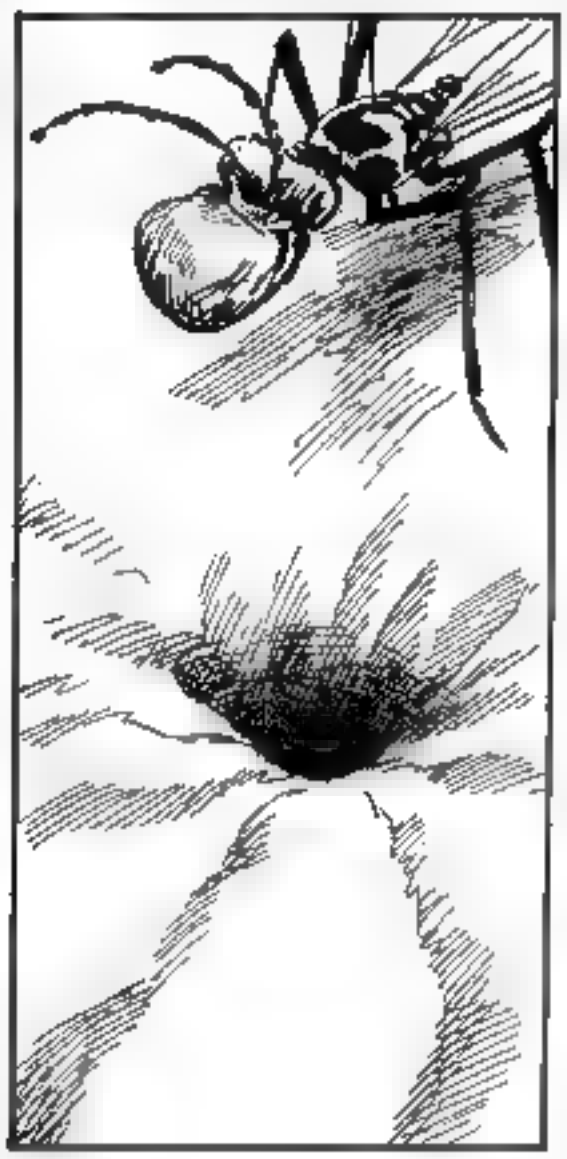


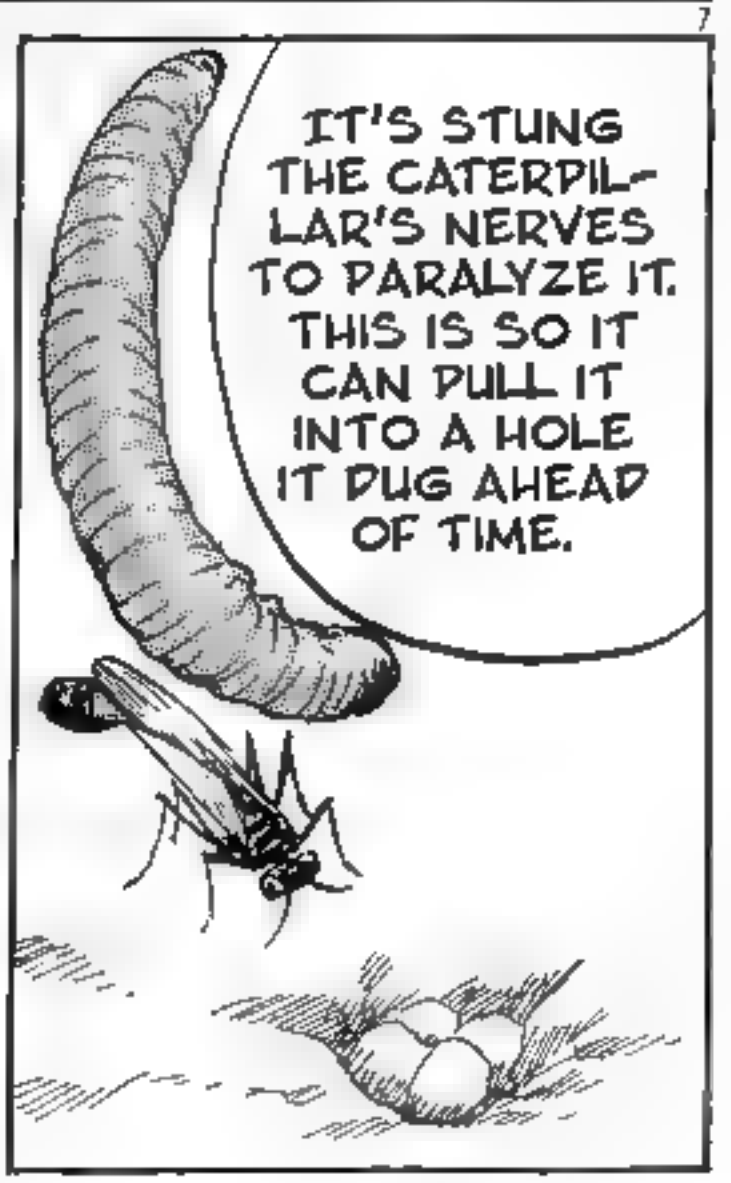
THAT'S NOT AN ANT, THAT'S AMMOPHILA SABULOSA, THE RED-BANDED SAND WASP THE ONLY REASON IT'S NOT FLYING IS THAT THE CATERPILLAR IT'S CARRYING IS TOO HEAVY.




"RED-BANDED SAND WASP"...






IT'S STUNG THE CATERPILLAR'S NERVES TO PARALYZE IT. THIS IS SO IT CAN PULL IT INTO A HOLE IT DUG AHEAD OF TIME.

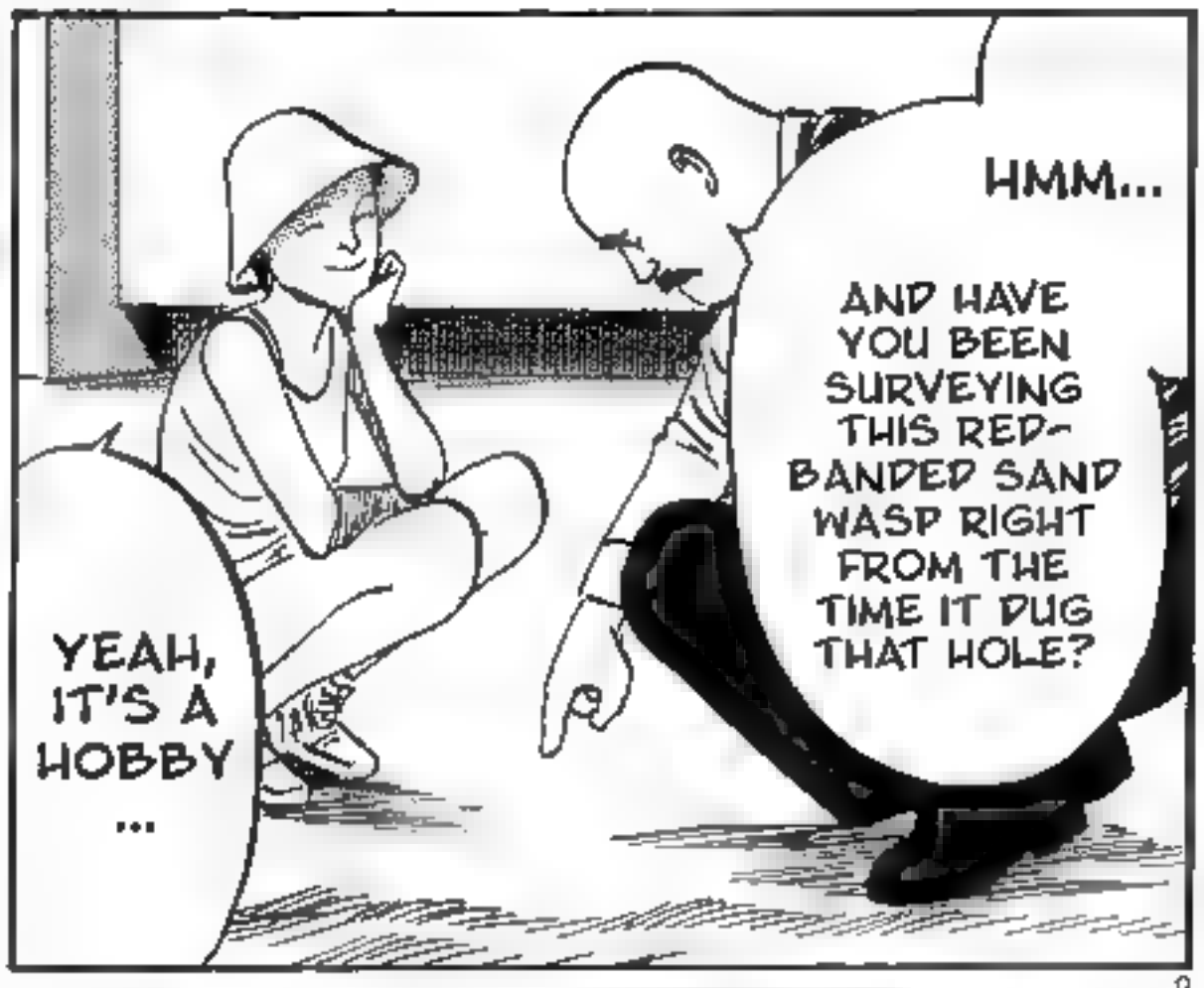
NOW THE RED-BANDED SAND WASP HAS LAID AN EGG IN THAT HOLE.

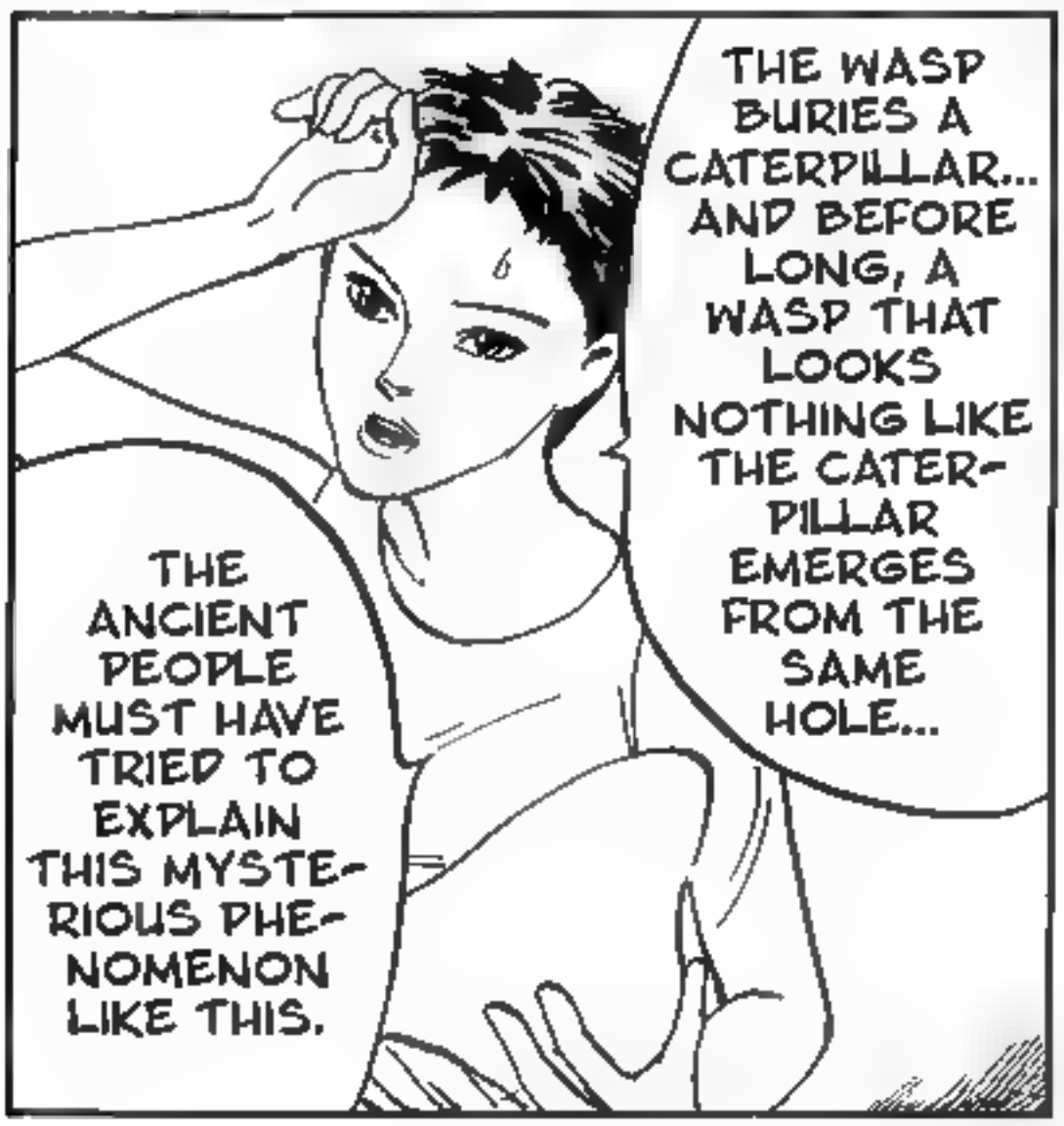
8

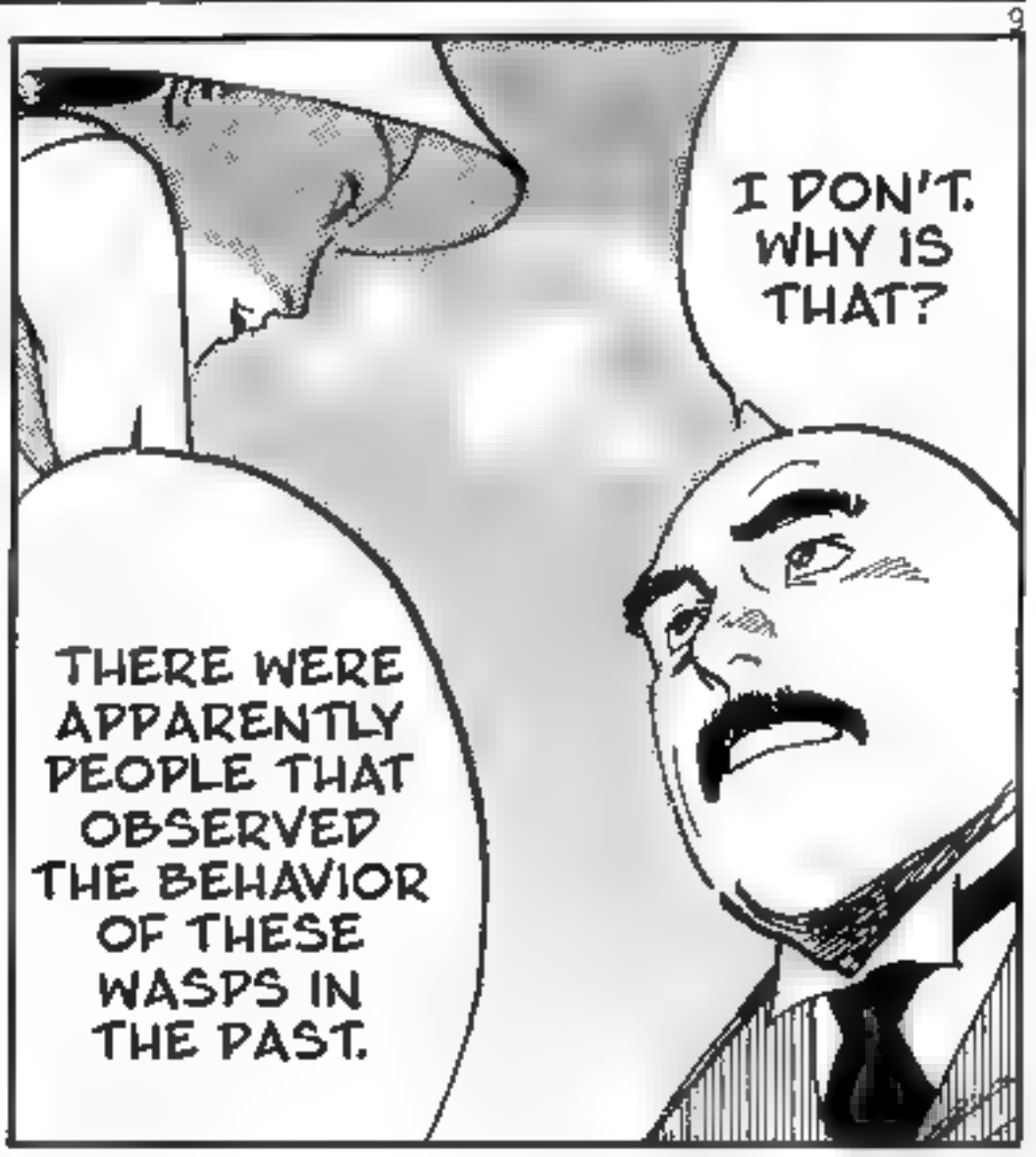
BEFORE LONG, THE HATCHED RED-BANDED SAND WASP LARVA WILL EAT THE CATERPILLAR AS IT GROWS...

IT'LL MAKE A COCOON AND PASS THE WINTER AS A CHRYSALIS, THEN EMERGE AS AN ADULT IN SPRING OR EARLY SUMMER OF NEXT YEAR.

PROFESSOR MUNAKATA, DO YOU KNOW WHY WE CALL THEM "JIGAB-ACHI" HERE IN JAPAN?


HMM...
AND HAVE YOU BEEN SURVEYING THIS RED-BANDED SAND WASP RIGHT FROM THE TIME IT DUG THAT HOLE?
YEAH, IT'S A HOBBY ...


THE WASP BURIES A CATERPILLAR... AND BEFORE LONG, A WASP THAT LOOKS NOTHING LIKE THE CATER-PILLAR EMERGES FROM THE SAME HOLE...
THE ANCIENT PEOPLE MUST HAVE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THIS MYSTE-RIOUS PHE-NOMENON LIKE THIS.


I DON'T. WHY IS THAT?
THERE WERE APPARENTLY PEOPLE THAT OBSERVED THE BEHAVIOR OF THESE WASPS IN THE PAST.

"BE LIKE ME"...
"BE LIKE ME"...

THE RED-BANDED SAND WASPS MUST HAVE NO MALES NOR FEMALES, AND INSTEAD OF GIVING BIRTH TO CHILDREN, THEY CAPTURE A CATERPILLAR, BURY IT, AND DANCE ABOVE IT WHILE CHANTING...

HENCE "JIGABA-CHI", THE LIKE-ME WASP.

"BE LIKE ME"...

AND THE CATERPILLAR EMERGES, TRANSFORMED INTO A WASP...

OH...

I SEE... THAT MAY LEAD INTO THE FIELD OF FOLKLOR-ISTICS...

I LIKE IT WHEN PEOPLE IMAGINE THINGS THAT WAY...

I REALLY LIKE THIS STORY.

WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?

IT'S NOTH-ING... IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I'VE BEEN OUT UNDER THE HOT SUN...

YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HEAT STROKE. I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE INSTITUTE.

THEY'RE FROM DECADES AGO. I PREFER LIVE OBSER-VATION... I'M OKAY NOW, I'M FEELING MUCH BETTER.

ARE THESE ALL INSECT SAMPLES?

HMM.

AMANO! CAN YOU HANDLE THESE FOR ME?

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

AHA! SORRY!

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE STUDYING ENTOMOLOGY IF YOU CAN'T EVEN TOUCH CATERPILLARS. YOU CAN'T TOUCH CAVE CRICKETS OR EARWIGS, EITHER, CAN YOU?

PROFESSOR MUNAKATA, THIS IS A *PAPILIONIDAE* LARVA.

WELL, WOMEN THAT LIKE INSECTS ARE A RARE BREED TO BEGIN WITH.

SO THIS IS THE "INSECT OF TOKOYO" ...!

Tokoyo was a utopia on the far side of the ocean, and people said that worshipping the "Insect of Tokoyo" as a god, which was said to have come from there, would bring wealth and eternal life.

The Nihon Shoki says that insect festivals for the "God of Tokoyo" were in vogue in the East in the third year of Kogyoku's reign (the year before the Taika Reforms).

This became a social problem, as more and more people spent their entire life savings to enshrine them.

The "Insect of Tokoyo" would always be born on a tachibana tree, but would also be found on a prickly ash It was green in color, and said to resemble the silkworm.

Hata no Kawakatsu, a member of the mighty settlers known as the "Hata Clan", suppressed this It's said that he slayed the founder, Ofube-no-O, and the priestesses to discipline them.

The Hata Clan were proficient in silkworm culture, in order to produce their Hata weaves, or silk goods It's said that they hated the Insect of Tokoyo festivals that resembled their silkworm faith

OR IT COULD BE THAT THE INSECTS OF TOKOYO WERE THE SILKWORMS THEMSELVES.

Kokai Shrine
Uzumasa, Kyoto

SILKWORM CULTURE, BROUGHT OVER FROM THE CONTINENT IN THE YAYOI PERIOD, COULD PRODUCE EXPENSIVE AND BEAUTIFUL SILK GOODS. THEY MUST HAVE BELIEVED THAT EVEN AN AMATEUR COULD BECOME RICH IF THEY SIMPLY RAISED SILKWORMS.

SILKWORMS CLING TO MULBERRY LEAVES, AND THEY'RE A DIFFERENT COLOR.

BUT IF THEY CLUNG TO *TACHIBANA* OR PRICKLY ASH TREES, THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE *PAPILIONIDAE* LARVAE.

SO WHY DID THEY COME TO CALL THEM INSECTS OF TOKOYO...?

HMM... BUT *PAPILIONIDAE* LARVAE CAN'T HAVE BEEN THAT RARE...

16

KIKU'S INSECT?

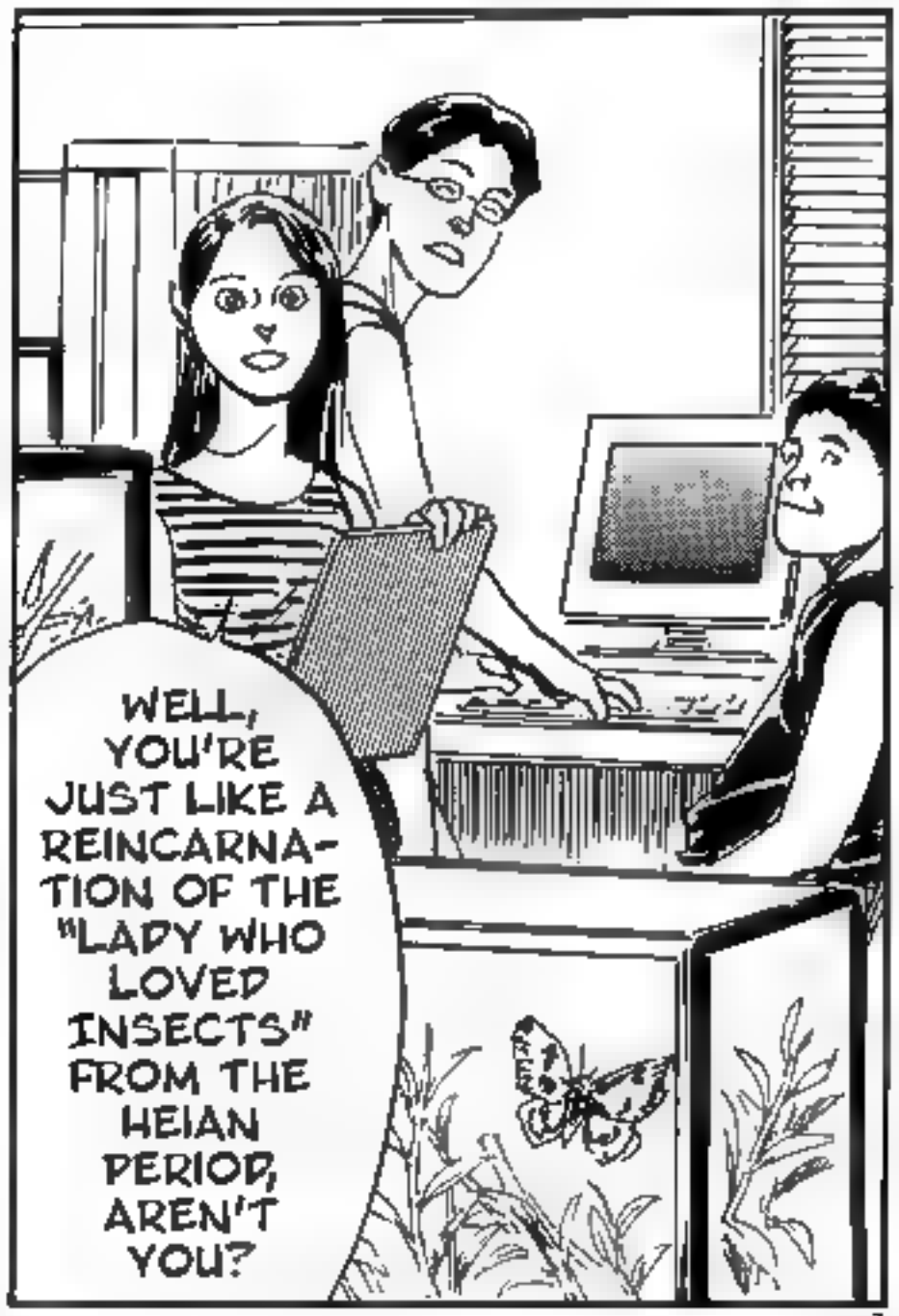
SPEAK-ING OF LARVAE, HAVE YOU HEARD OF THIS BEFORE?

THE ATRO-PHANEURA ALCINOUS CHRYSALIS... IT'S ALSO KNOWN AS "KIKU'S INSECT".

INSECTS CAN LEAD PEOPLE TO IMAGINE ALL KINDS OF THINGS. I BELIEVE THERE WERE ANCIENT PEOPLE WHO WERE DRAWN TO THEM FOR THAT REASON...

YOU MEAN LIKE THE SPIRIT KIKU THAT WOULD COUNT PLATES IN THE "DISH MANSION IN BANCHO"?
THAT'S RIGHT. THE PEOPLE OF THE EDO PERIOD MUST HAVE ASSOCI-ATED IT WITH THE WOMAN THAT WAS BLAMED FOR LOSING A FAMILY HEIRLOOM.

AH HH HH!
I KNOW YOU JUST STOPPED SHORT OF SAYING "BROAD" INSTEAD OF "LADY"! BE HONEST!


WELL, YOU'RE JUST LIKE A REINCARNA-TION OF THE "LADY WHO LOVED INSECTS" FROM THE HEIAN PERIOD, AREN'T YOU?

THE LADY WHO LOVED INSECTS... HEHEH.

She was a very memorable woman who gave no care to her personal appearance, and instead collected and observed caterpillars, trying to learn something essential from them.

"The Lady Who Loved Insects" is a part of "The Tales of Councillor Tsutsumi", which depicts the life of a very unique noblewoman.

This is why people call her the first entomologist of Japan.

Chrys-
ochroa
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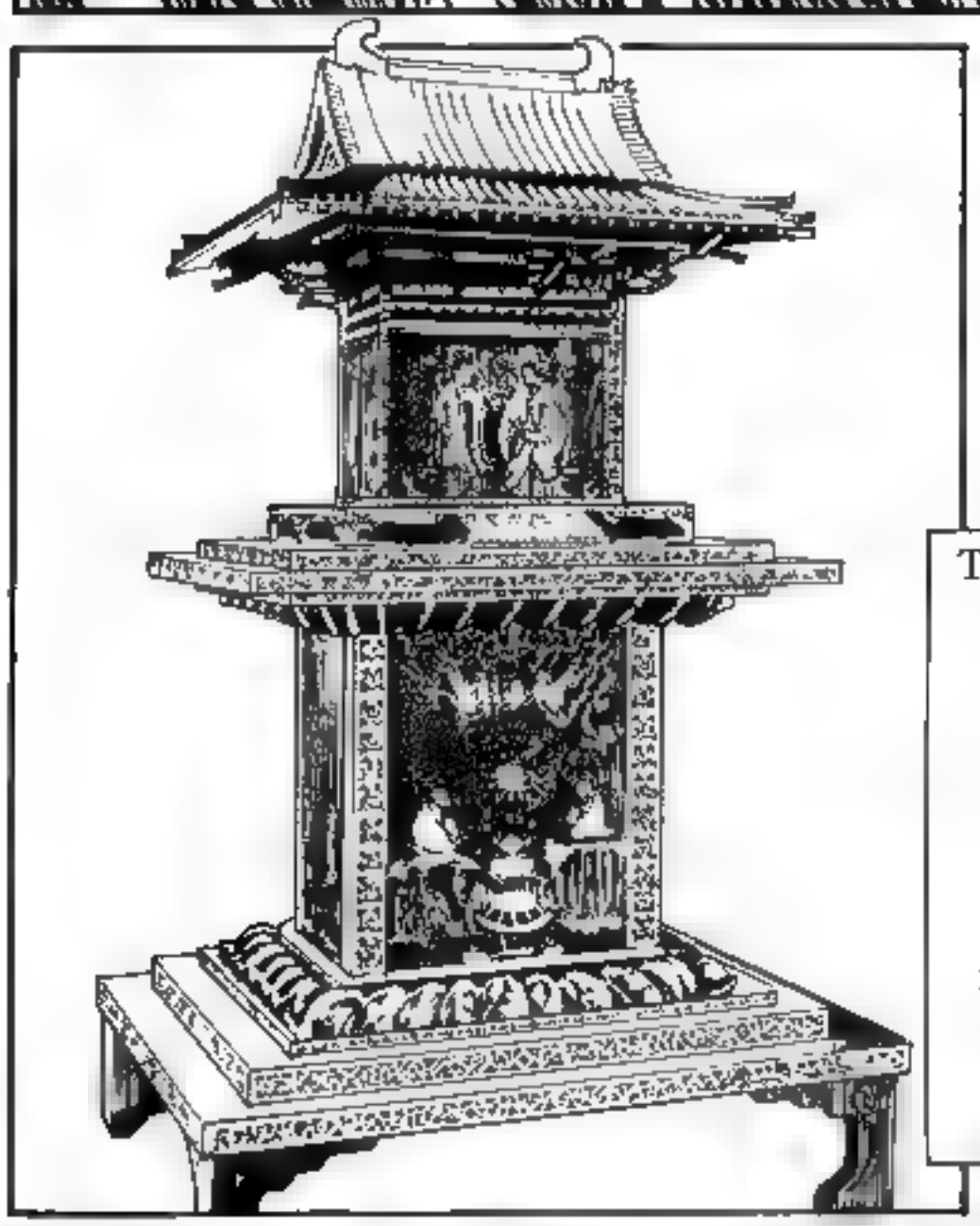
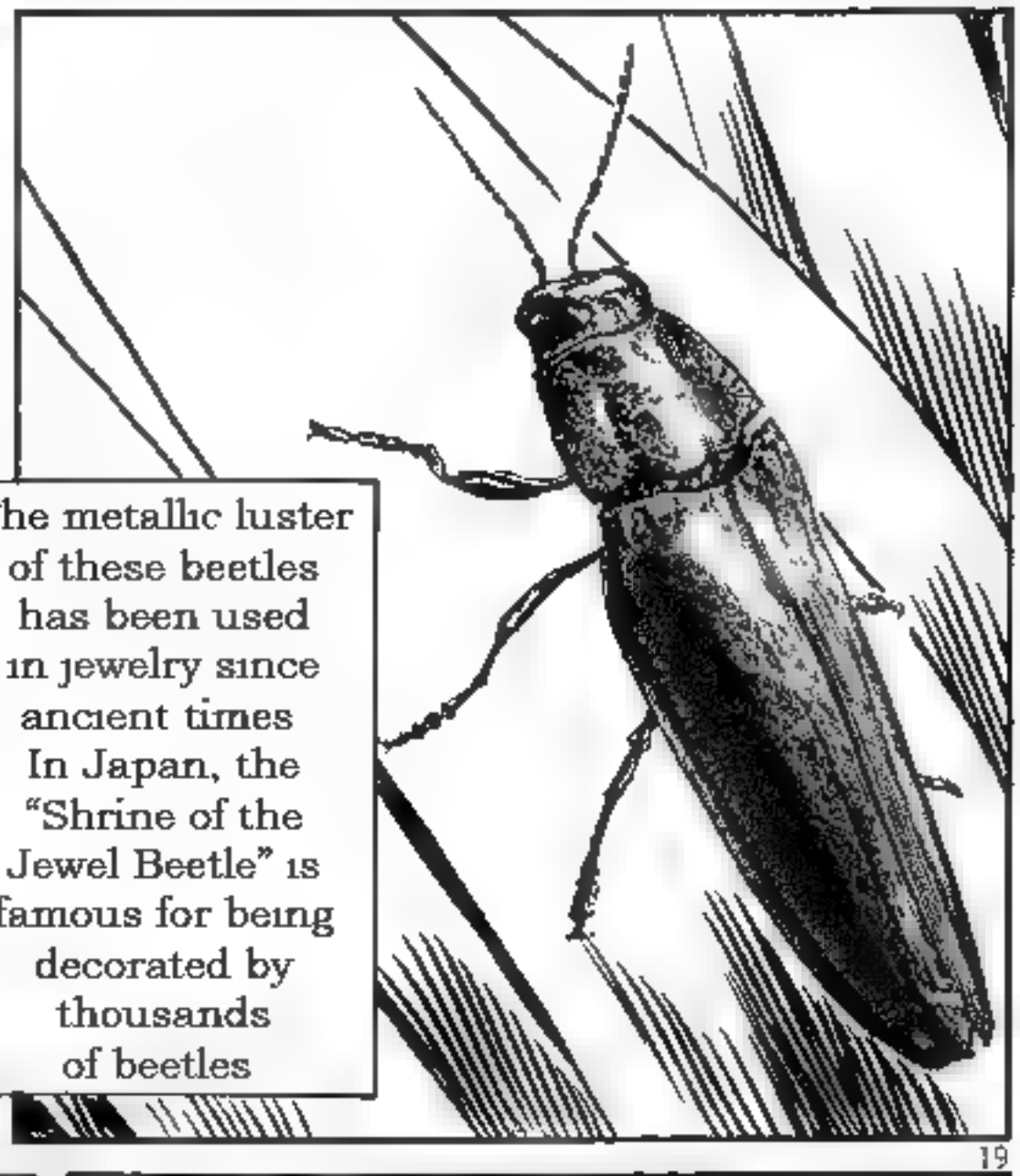
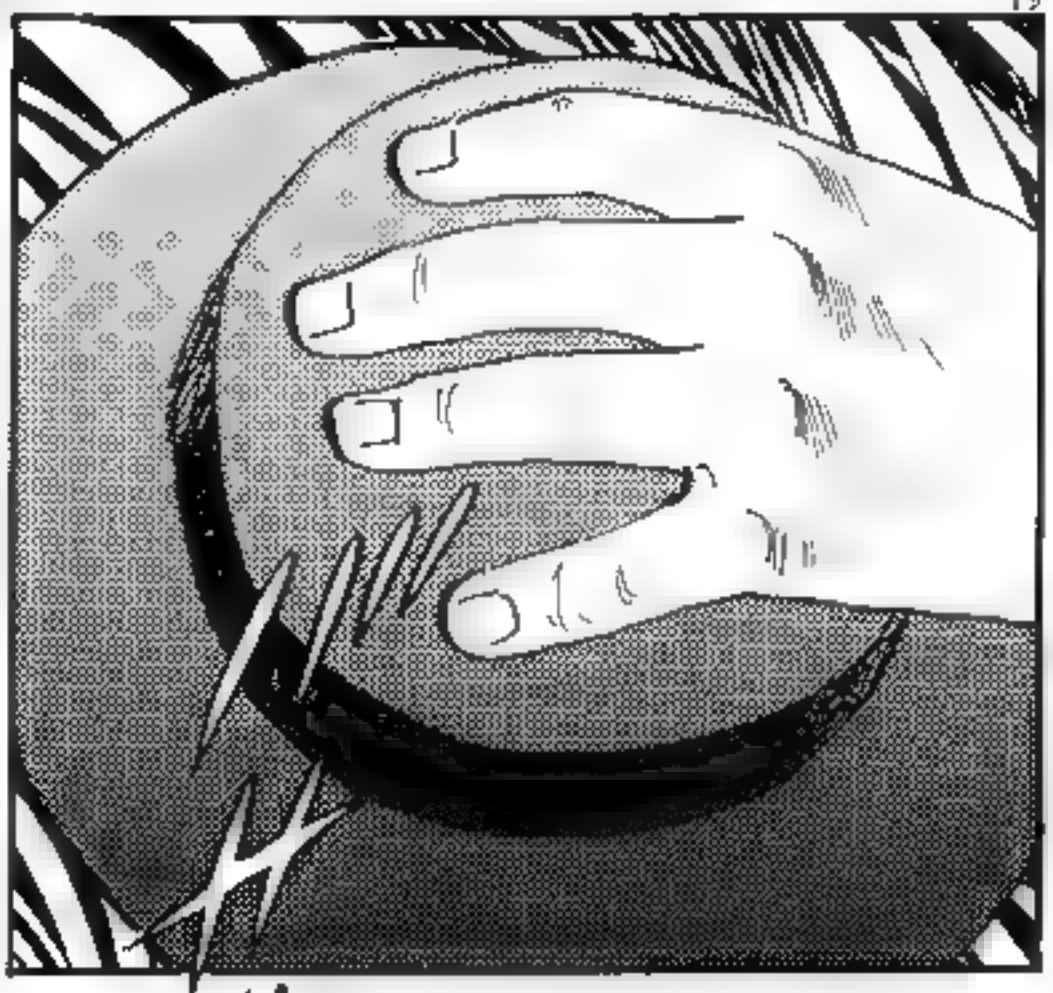
..




The metallic luster
of these beetles
has been used
in jewelry since
ancient times
In Japan, the
"Shrine of the
Jewel Beetle" is
famous for being
decorated by
thousands
of beetles



WHEN I RETURNED FROM CHICHIBU, WHERE I WAS STATIONED FOR FIELD WORK OVER THE SUMMER BREAK, I LEARNED THAT THE "LADY" HAD LEFT THIS WORLD...

HER CONDITION SUDDENLY WORSENED, AND SHE WAS HOSPITALIZED... SHE PASSED AWAY TEN DAYS AGO...

I GUESS SHE DIDN'T TELL YOU, BUT AMANO WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A TERMINAL BLOOD DISEASE.

BEFORE SHE DIED, SHE SAID SHE WANTED HER DESK DECORATED WITH A *TACHIBANA* INSTEAD OF FLOWERS, AND SHE WANTED YOU TO SEE IT...

THIS IS A *TACHI-BANA*.

"THE UNTIMELY FRUIT"...!

TACHI-BANA...

"And this most un timely fruit was the fruit of the *tachibana*" Kojiki

Tajimamori, under orders of Emperor Suijin, spent ten years seeking the fruit of the Land of Tokoyo, but by the time he returned, the Emperor had passed away.

The myth of the "Untimely Fruit" .

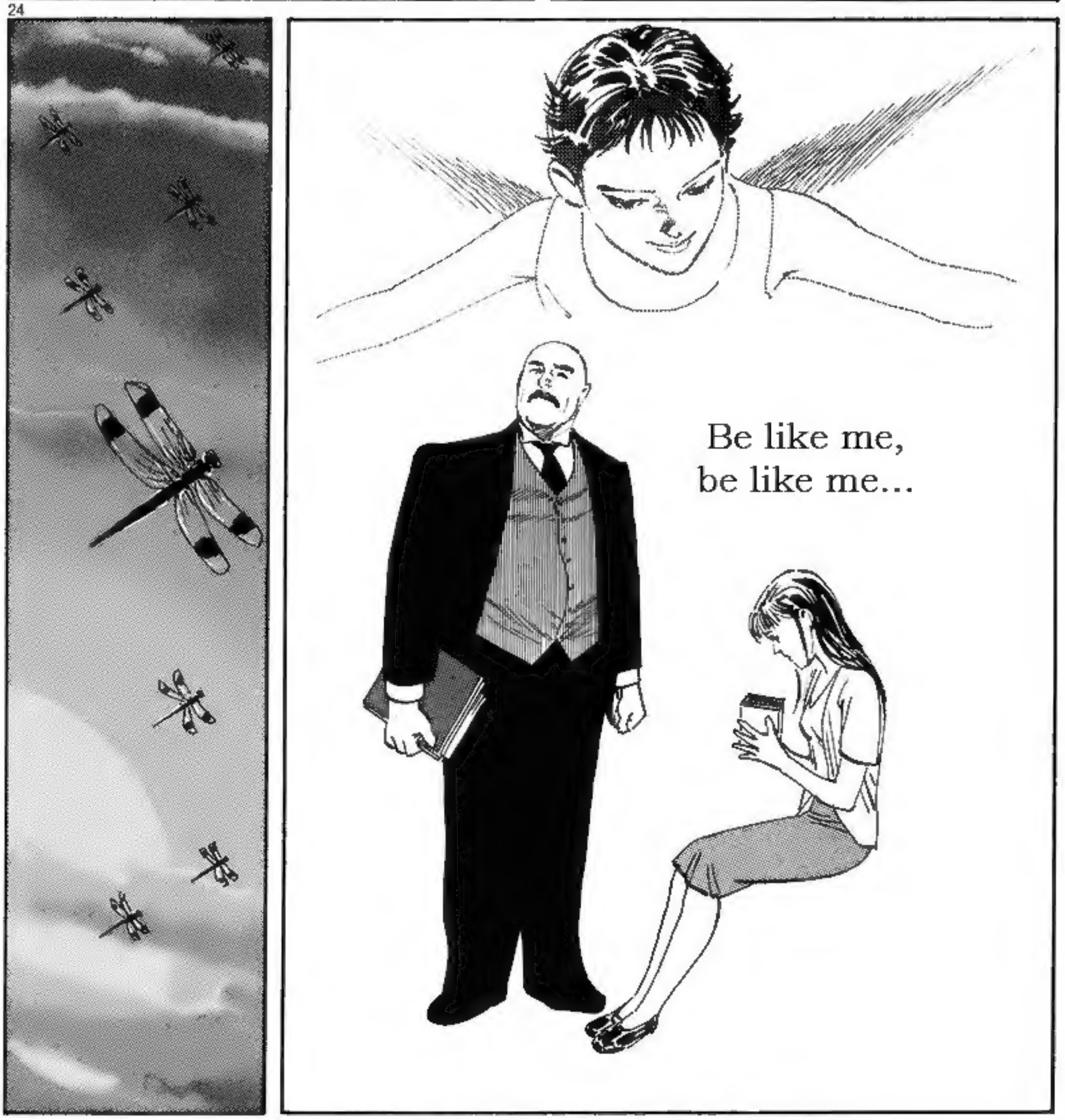
They are the insects of Tokoyo because they cling to the trees from the land of Tokoyo! Once someone made that suggestion, people must have started believing it.

And it is the *tachibana* that the *Papilionidae* lays its eggs on, and that raises its larvae on its leaves!

22

So you were telling me that the reason was just that simple, Akitsu. .

I WONDER WHAT IT EATS?
MAYBE I'LL TAKE IT BACK TO MY APART-MENT AND RAISE IT!
THAT'S A MIGRATORY LOCUST. I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D SHOW INTEREST IN IN-SECTS...



The Case Records of Professor Munakata Collection 5 – END

これらの作品はフィクションです。
実在の団体・人物・事件などには
一切関係ありません。

◎初出一覧◎

道成寺

「ビッグコミック」2006年6月10日号、6月25日号、7月10日号、7月25日号

◆

複合遺跡

「ビッグコミック」2006年4月10日号、4月25日号、5月10日号、5月25日号

◆

虫めづる姫君

「ビッグコミック」2006年9月25日号

◎参考資料・協力◎

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THE CASE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MUNAKATA

CHAPTER 16

PRESENTED BY

HOKUTO NO GUN

TRANSLATED BY

SYSTEMATICCHAOS

EDITING BY

HIGHTIDE AND KAZUHIKO

PROOFREADING BY

DESTORYERRING